

KNIT FOR CHARITY!

Page 58

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



Enter our Blooming Great
Tea Party competition

**BLOOMING
GREAT
TEA PARTY**

Meet Cheryl,
Chas &
Chester!

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Knitting

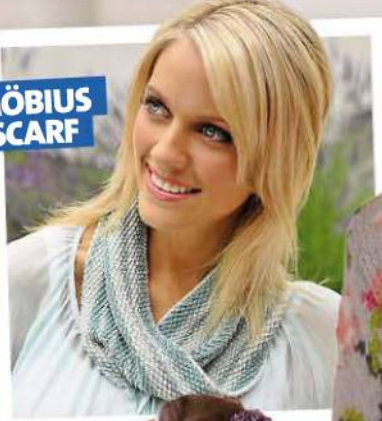


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**FAIR ISLE
OUTFIT**

Brilliant tips & ideas!

- ☒ Easy fancy stitches
- ☒ How to knit in the round
- ☒ Pompon yarns reviewed
- ☒ **WIN!** Artesano Zest Kit

**Yarn
offers**
Turn to
page 66!

**Quick & Easy
Knits**
10 great ideas
for spring gifts!

**PLANT
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22**

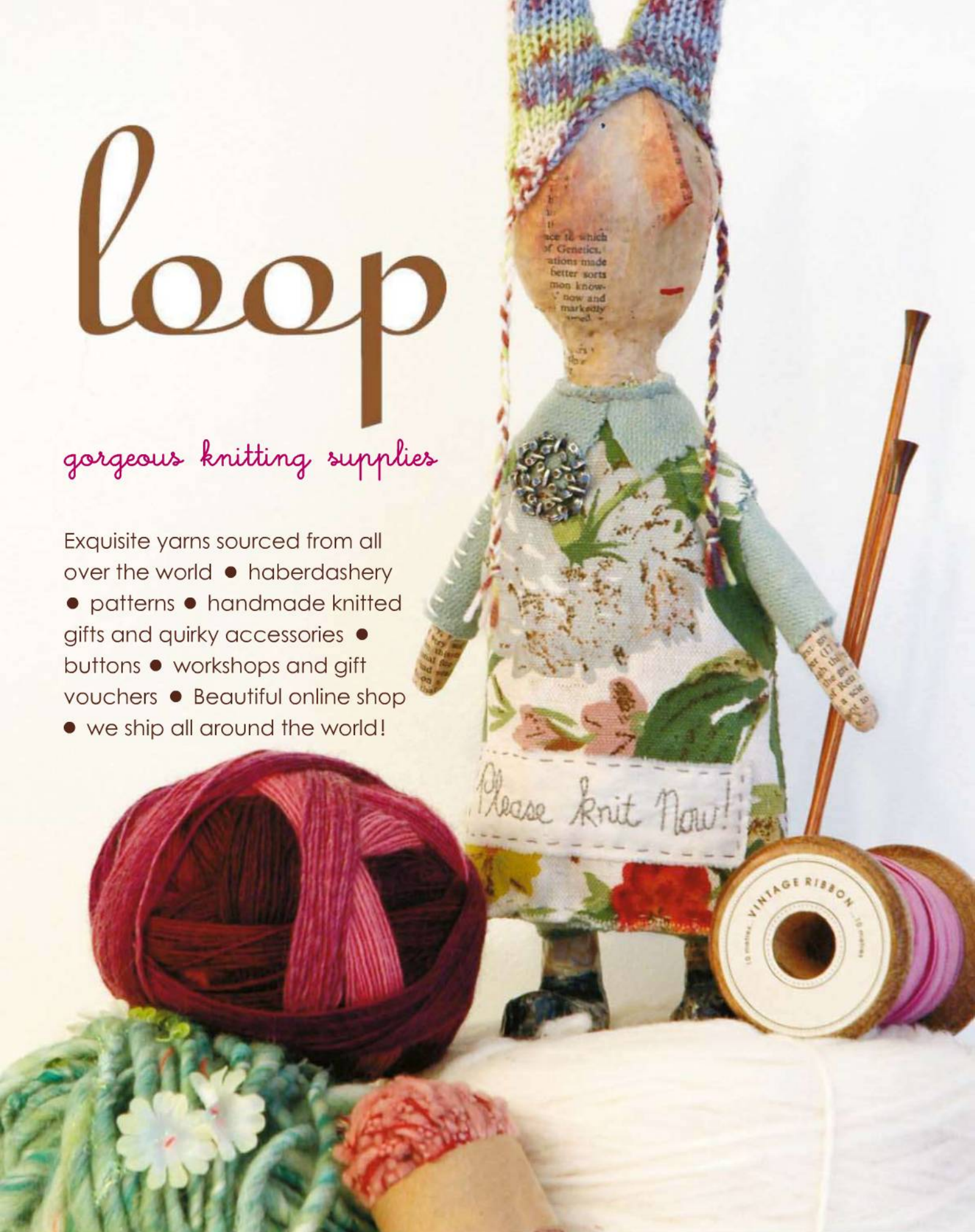
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Cast on...

We are very proud to be launching our new charity campaign supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care's Blooming Great Tea Party this spring. We'll be asking you to sign up to hold your own Blooming Great Tea Party, and we're giving you the chance to enter our new competition. There are fantastic prizes including goodies from Cath Kidston, and books, yarn and needles kindly donated by leading knitting companies. All you have to do is get your needles going and knit or crochet a fun tea cosy. Turn to page 58 to find out more details and how to enter. You'll also be able to find out a bit more about the work the charity does, and to see a photo of Jane Asher with the tea cosy she designed – all sorts of celebrities are supporting the campaign, and we'll have more designs from household names in future issues.

Lately I've spent a fortune on yarn, not content with being surrounded by the stuff all day. I'm always drawn to the softest yarns regardless of fibre content, but I must admit to having splashed out on a couple of skeins of cashmere. The yardage is very good and the quality is superb (this is how I'm justifying it to my bank balance!), and it will take me quite some time to decide what to knit with it. I think it'll be a shawl, so I'm looking forward to spending some time searching through my patterns to see which one to choose. Keep writing in and letting us know how you're getting on too – we love to hear from you.

Debra

Subscribe today!

Subscribe and receive a delightful Della Q Rosemary bag! It's perfect for keeping little projects safe – especially socks – and very handy if you like to knit on the move. You'll save 23% on the shop price of each issue, have it delivered to your door, and you'll receive this great gift too! (See page 14 for full details.)



Cast on... Things I love this month

Your two FREE gifts!

We have not one but two great free booklets for you to enjoy this issue! Go mad for football (well, the World Cup is upon us!) or indulge yourself and knit our gorgeous doll, terrific teds or cute chickens.



THIS MONTH'S GIFT



Gingerbread House



Turn to page 68 to find out what happens when you're invited to ship a whole knitted gingerbread house to Thailand!

French style

I went to 'L'Aiguille en Fete' (The Needle Show) in Paris and witnessed the French speed knitting championships. It was interesting to see some unfamiliar yarns. But, mainly, it was cross stitch and patchwork heaven!



Trend alert!

The novelty trend started by Rico's Pompon yarn last year has caught on – take a look at our yarn review on page 72. Knitting trends don't come much bigger than this!



Next month

Watch out for your free row counter in a summery yellow. Being so bright and with a handy lanyard, it's great in your knitting kit and nigh impossible to lose!

FREE NEXT ISSUE!



Simply Knitting

Simply inspiring

Great ideas for Spring

A Welsh woollen wonder, cool Scandinavian designs and lovely summery yarn **6**

Simply Events

Events while this issue's on sale **12**

Blooming Great Tea Party

Find out how we're supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care, and how you can help **58**

Gingerbread House... In Thailand

Alison Murray and the Knitted Gingerbread House go to Thailand to help children **68**

Cast Off Catch Up

Rachael's dyeing with Kool-Aid **70**

Club of the Month

The talented Harrow Knitters **93**

Knit One, Purl Fun!

Meet Ada, Alan's fundraising Haitian beastie – and some of his other creations **98**



Subscribe today!

Don't miss out on your Della Q silk knitting bag! Page 14

WIN!

Child's Artesano top kit

TURN TO PAGE 10 NOW FOR HOW TO ENTER!

20 Cherry Blossom



Cover model: Laura Sheedy (MOT Models)
Photographer: Neil Godwin
Hair & make-up: Ami Penfold



42 Tea for Three

Spring 2010



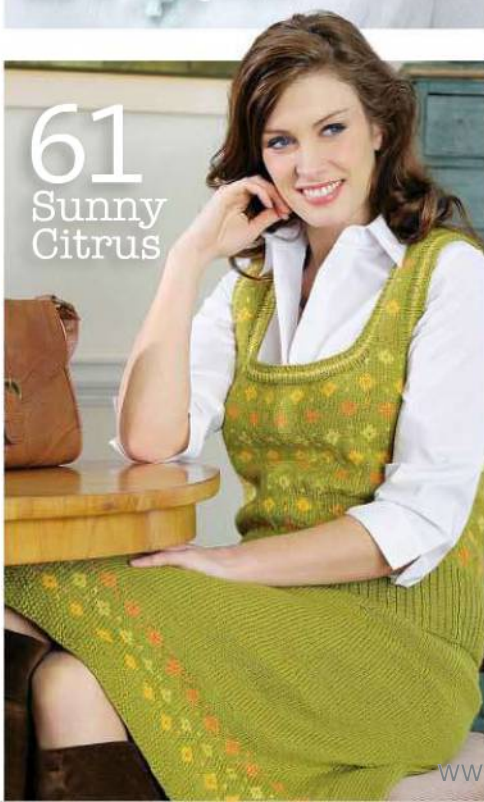
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A Touch
of Lace



35
Round
Robin



27 Infinitely
Stylish



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Sunny
Citrus

Patterns

Cherry Blossom

Stunning intarsia floral jacket
by Martin Storey **20**

Infinitely Stylish

Feminine Möbius scarf **27**

A Touch of Lace

Dainty smock-style top **30**

Round Robin

Child's stripy tank top – learn
how to knit in the round **35**

Tea for Three

The first part of Alan Dart's
chimps' tea party **42**

Blooming Great Tea Party

Knitting and crochet patterns
for charity tea cosies **58**

Sunny Citrus

Fair Isle tank top and skirt. **61**

Stitch library

'Long loop' stitch patterns **81**

Simply the best

We do the hard work so you don't have to! Here
are the new books, patterns and yarns.

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Quick & Easy Knits

A pretty scarf,
slippers, a baby hat,
gifts for gardeners,
socks and other
speedy knits.



47



Great ideas for... Spring

Miriam McDonald brings you the latest in knitting news, gossip and products...



Miriam McDonald

Wrapped in red

BBC Radio Wales gets rugby fans knitting for the Six Nations.

How proud are the people of Wales of their rugby team? If the red scarf knitted by listeners of BBC Radio Wales is anything to go by, you'd be hard put to find better support anywhere. Radio presenters Jamie Owen and Louise Elliott encouraged listeners to come together to knit a scarf to show support for the national side during this year's Six Nations rugby tournament. Jamie and Louise even took the scarf on tour to give people up and down the country to do their bit for the team. Now there's lovely!



Jamie and Louise took the scarf project around Wales.

READ
MORE ON
THE WEB

See photos of knitters working on the scarf, celebrities wearing bits of it and the full list of knitters who've contributed to it at www.bbc.co.uk/wales/radiowales/sites/jamieandlouise/pages/sixnations_scarf.shtml



Manos supports women in rural areas of Uruguay.

Fairest of them all

Manos del Uruguay has become a full member of the World Fair Trade Association. The firm was set up to provide opportunities for women in rural parts of Uruguay, and is made up of 17 co-operatives, guaranteeing fair pay and decent conditions for the workers, and their membership of the WFTO proves they're continuing to achieve their aims. What better excuse could you have to keep using their beautiful yarns?

To find your nearest stockist of Manos del Uruguay yarns, call Artesano on 0118 950 3350.

GIVEAWAY!

Incomparable buttons

WIN

From giant flowers to dainty circles, cats to cars, Incomparable buttons add the finishing touch to any knit. Made by South African ladies working under Fair Trade conditions, the ceramic buttons are machine washable, and so are as practical as they are beautiful. Each winner in this giveaway will receive a strip of Incomparable buttons so you can see for yourself how attractive they are (we can't guarantee a particular shape). To see the full range or for more information, visit www.injabulo.com or call 01832 274881.

25
STRIPS TO
GIVE
AWAY

Beautiful, machine washable buttons.

* TO ENTER: Text **SKSHINY**, then a space, then your name and address to **87474** or visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk and scroll down to 'Competitions'. Fill in the entry form using the keyword **SKSHINY**. For terms and conditions see page 17.

There are around
3.5 million
alpacas in South
America.

Source: The British Alpaca Society



This wrap is a versatile summer cover-up.



Linen Shadow DK complements Patons' hit yarn of last summer, Linen Touch. A touch of acrylic to the cotton/linen blend means there are paler flashes throughout the yarn, so it knits or crochets up with gentle variations.

For more details, visit www.coatscrafts.co.uk or call 01325 394237.

FRESH AND FANCY

Feel feminine in Drops' latest collection.

Scandinavian yarn manufacturer Drops' Spring/Summer 2010 patterns feature light colours, cool fibres and lacy stitches. We especially like this design, code z-496, for its dainty details and flattering wrap

shape. It's knitted in Drops Alpaca. Visit www.garnstudio.com to download the patterns for free. Call 05601 731574 or visit www.scandinavianknittingdesign.eu to find a stockist of Drops yarn.



'Knitting queen' bracelets raise money for a severely disabled child. £15, The Little Knitting Company

Gimme Shelterbox

Disasters (earthquake, flood, tsunami and so many more) can affect any country in the world, and Cornwall-based charity Shelterbox is always ready to deliver boxes of aid where needed. Designer and yarn dyer Anniken Allis has designed this beautiful shawl, and she's made the pattern free to download from her website and is requesting donations to Shelterbox. Visit Anniken's website at www.yarnaddict.co.uk to download the pattern (there's a link to the JustGiving page for donations) and www.shelterbox.org to find out more about Shelterbox's essential work.



Knit the shawl, make a donation.

Knit a shawl from hand-dyed yarn for a bright, modern look. **Debora**

ON THE NEEDLES...



Grace Melville
Designer

GRACE MELVILLE IS THE DESIGNER OF ROWAN STUDIO 18

What are you knitting?

The Chorley wrap from Rowan 46 for my sister. It's in Rowan Big Wool which is great, as it'll knit up quickly.

How far in advance do you plan a collection?

From the initial designs to the launch a collection takes approximately four months. However, I am already designing the next Studio collection seven weeks before the previous Studio is even in the shops.

What's the trickiest thing about designing a collection of knitwear?

The hardest thing for me is the time it takes to knit up the swatches. I'll sketch a rough idea and knit a swatch to see how it drapes, feels, looks etc, and then I'll think it needs to be thicker or finer, or in a different colourway and so I'll knit another swatch and, if I have enough time, another, but you never have enough time!

MAIN IMAGE These intricately tiled pieces are actually knitted rather than patchwork. From 'Kaffe's Summer House', Rowan Magazine 47.

Simply home

Your patch

If you've never browsed in a patchwork fabric shop, we advise you not to start – it's nearly as addictive as shopping for yarn!

With crafts becoming more popular, plus a major exhibition on British quilts at the V&A from March 20 to July 4, 2010 is set to be the year of the quilt. They don't have to be patchwork – the beauty of 'wholecloth' quilts is in the way the fabrics are sewn together to create padded designs.

Kaffe Fassett is a quilter as well as a knitter, and has produced books on quilts as well as designing a line of fabrics for Rowan. Can't sew, won't sew? Knit patchwork-style instead. In Rowan Magazine 47, you'll find 'Kaffe's Summer House', a collection of knitting designs featuring tessellated patterns just like you'd find in patchwork quilts.



3

1

2

4



PHOTO: BERRY RED

INSETS 1&2. Two designs from Quilt Romance **3.** Kaffe Fassett's Quilt Romance **4** Flamingo and flowers satin-backed bedspread, from £90, Berry Red

5 of the best Essential tools



1

For lace, socks and shaped patterns, stitch markers are invaluable.

2

Every knitter should have at least one stitch holder.

3

A darning needle is essential for weaving in ends and grafting.

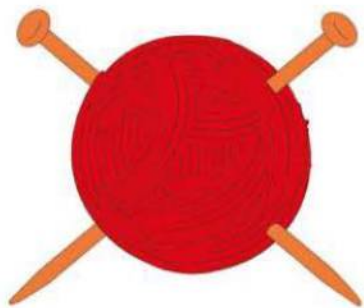
4

Dropped a stitch? Pick it up with a crochet hook.

5

You need a ruler or tape measure for checking your tension – always check your tension!

Use a tiny crochet hook to pick up dropped sock stitches. Kirstie



Knitting yarn, kits and accessories from:

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*Trompe l'oeil
jumper, £59,
Hobbs*

PHOTO: HOBBS

*This design by Martin
Storey is from Rowan
Classic Colour of Summer.*

Simply style

Sea fairer

All the nice girls love a sailor – if only for his natty colour combinations! Navy and white is a classic colour scheme for beachwear. Coco Chanel herself set a trend for wearing nautical stripes on the beach in the 1920s, and nearly nine decades later the look is as chic as ever.

The key rules for this look are to keep your shapes simple and your stripes horizontal. (You don't want to look like a convict!) Pair a striped top with wide-legged trousers for a 1920s look, or channel Brigitte Bardot and wear the same top with capri pants, flat shoes and a wide navy cloth headband.

It can be tricky to get skirts right with the nautical look; pencil skirts or flirty minis look best. Virtually any sort of trousers or shorts will do, however, as long as they're navy or white, making this a great look for anyone who wants to be stylish yet practical.

If you fancy knitting your own sailor-striped top, opt for a lightweight cotton yarn that'll be cool all summer. Patons 100% Cotton 4ply and Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton 4ply both include white and dark blue in their ranges.

*White linen trousers,
£20, Matalan*

PHOTO: MATALAN

*Oversized
shoulder bag,
£18, BHS*

GIVEAWAY

Artesano 'Zest' kit

WIN Win this prize and not only do you get the beautiful Artesano Aran yarn in the new colour needed to knit the 'Zest' pattern, you will get all the needles – straight and cable – needed to knit it up.

Artesano Aran is a 50/50 blend of alpaca and wool, so it's soft and warm, and totally natural. Aran weight yarns knit up quickly, so this lovely cabled design will fly off your new needles, ready for a lucky little boy to wear.

To find out more about Artesano products or to find a stockist, visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call 0118 950 3350.

* **TO ENTER:** Text **SKZEST**, then a space, then your name and address to **87474** or visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk and scroll down to 'Competitions'. Fill in the entry form using the keyword **SKZEST**. For terms and conditions see page 17.

This British-made 'woolly mug' features a photo of knitted Herdwick yarn. £9.99, from Herdy.



OLYMPIC KNITTERS



PHOTO: MAGDALENA NEUNER FANCLUB

Golden girl Magdalena is also a knitter.

Snow and yarn: the perfect match!

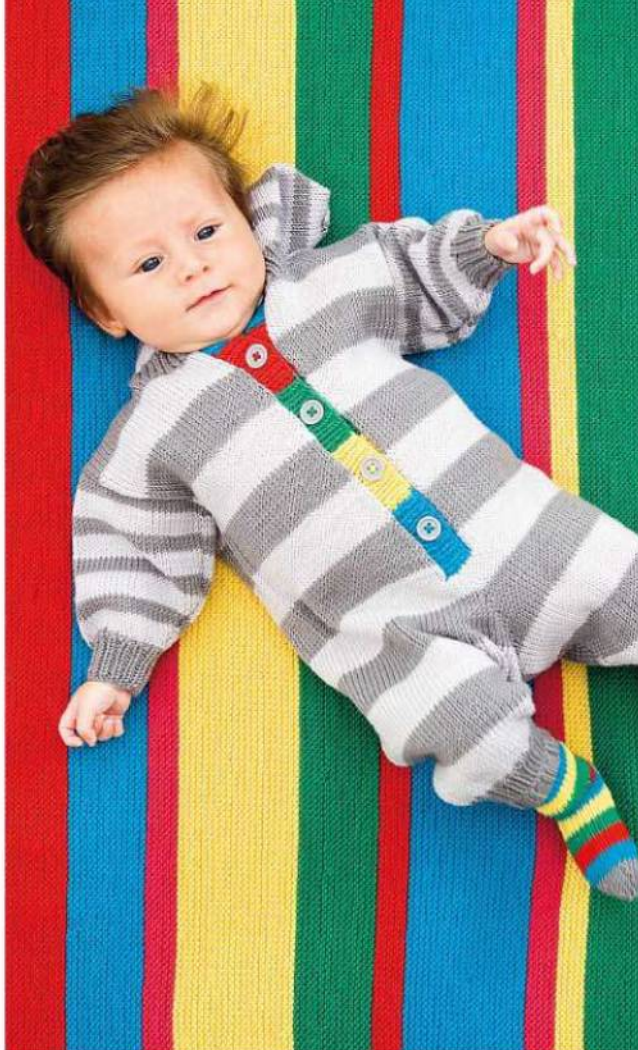
The recent Winter Olympics in Canada must have been the woolliest yet. After all, what is knitting without a bit of cold? (Some might say unnecessary!)

At the start of the Olympics, the choice of Cowichan-style jumpers manufactured by a large firm as part of the official merchandise instead of the real thing knitted by hand by Canada's Cowichan First Nations people – was extremely controversial.

However, the games ended on a golden knitting note as Magdalena Neuner of Germany won the women's 10km biathlon pursuit.

Magdalena's also a passionate knitter, to the point where she has her own knitting blog, produced with the support of Lana Grossa. The blog is in German, but there are plenty of pictures of Magdalena showing off her favourite designs. Find it at www.magdalena-strickt.de

PHOTO: MAGDALENA NEUNER FANCLUB



Baby glow

MillaMia puts colour into baby knits.

MillaMia is a new yarn and pattern range launched by two Swedish sisters based in Britain. Think of Swedish design and clean lines, bright colours and a very modern look will spring to mind – and that's what MillaMia brings to knitters. Two books of patterns for babies and children, plus 17 shades of Naturally Soft Merino DK yarn are currently available. Visit www.millamia.com or call 08450 177474 for details.

Wendy Merino Bliss is a new, machine washable pure wool DK in 20 classic shades. It's an inexpensive natural fibre yarn for the whole family.

Visit www.tbramsden.co.uk or call 01943 872264 to find your nearest stockist.



STOP PRESS...

Prince Charles has launched The Wool Project, aimed at increasing the use of Commonwealth and British wool... Daina Taimina's book *Crocheting Adventures with Hyperbolic Planes* is up for the 2010 Diagram Prize, an award given to the oddest book title of the year... Start to fight moths early this year – shake your yarn (and clothes!) out in the air regularly, and pop it out in the sun as the larvae hate the daylight... Alpaca shearing season is coming up, and that means the widest choice of colours of British-grown alpaca yarn. If you like an unusual shade, buy it now!... If Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* has your teens hankering for Alice-style fashions, grab a copy of Louisa Harding's *Alice-inspired pattern book, Queen of Hearts...*

Simply events

Mar

25-28 Mar

Hobbycrafts & Fashion, Embroidery & Stitch NEC, BirminghamExhibitions including Above & Below the Waves, plus shopping and workshops. Visit www.ichf.co.uk or call 01425 277988 for details.

27 Mar

Kangaroo workshop East SussexMake crochet corsages with Jane Crowfoot. Visit www.kangaroo.uk.com or call 01273 400030 for more information.

28 Mar

Loop workshop LondonKnitting Bonanza workshop with Linda Marveng. Visit www.loopknitting.com or call 020 7288 1160 for more information.

Get the sock bug this April.

Apr

8-11 Apr

Contemporary Craft Fair ManchesterBuy crafts direct from the craftsmen and women. Visit www.fusecrafters.moonfruit.com for more information.

10 Apr

Liberty workshop LondonSubject to be confirmed, with Emma King. Visit www.liberty.co.uk or call 020 7734 1234 for more information.

10 Apr

Voirrey Embroidery workshop WirralSocks rock, with Heike Gittins. Visit www.voirrey.com or call 0151 342 3514 for more information.

15-17 Apr

The Stitch & Creative Crafts Show BelfastWorkshops, exhibitions and shopping galore. Visit www.sccshows.co.uk or call 01822 614671 for more information.

16 & 17 Apr

Get Knitted workshops BristolMake a beaded purse with Debbie Abrahams (16). Dye your own yarn with Jeni from Fyberspates (17). Visit <http://getknitted.com> or call 0117 3005211.

17 & 24 Apr

Fibre + Clay workshop Knutsford, CheshireLearn to knit – right from the basics (17). Sock knitting on 4 or 5 needles (24). Visit www.fibreandclay.co.uk or call 01565 652035 for more information.

17 Apr

KnitEXPO ExeterKnitting, shopping and classes, with an emphasis on knitting's arty side. Visit www.knitexpo.co.uk or call 01392 667080 for more information.

22 Apr



22-25 Apr

The Stitch & Creative Crafts ShowShepton Mallet, Somerset Workshops, exhibitions and shopping galore. Visit www.sccshows.co.uk or call 01822 614671 for more information.

23-25 Apr

Creative Stitches & HobbycraftsAintree, Liverpool Exhibitions including Above & Below the Waves, plus shopping and workshops. Visit www.ichf.co.uk or call 01425 277988.

17 & 21 Apr

Kangaroo workshops East SussexOne-skein knits with Anne Makepeace (17). Design your own knits, part 1, with Debbie Abrahams (21). Visit www.kangaroo.uk.com, call 01273 400030.

18 & 25 Apr

Loop workshops LondonFinishing techniques (18). Fair Isle the continental way (25). Both with Linda Marveng. Visit www.loopknitting.com, call 020 7288 1160.

24 Apr

John Lewis workshop ChesterSocks rock, with Heike Gittins. Visit www.johnlewis.com or call 0114 276 8511

Rediscover your love of wool at Wonderwool.

24-25 Apr

Wonderwool Wales Builth Wells, PowysFab fibre festival, with knitting, yarn, spinning - and a food festival next door! Visit www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk or call 01873 821205.

25 Apr

Yarn workshop NottinghamProfessional finishing techniques with Erica Pask. Visit www.yarn-in-notts.co.uk or call 0115 925 3606 for more information.

27 Apr

St Ivo school courses St Ives, Cambridgeshire10-week evening class course: Learn to knit the professional way. Visit www.aclearning.org.uk or call 01480 495717 for more information.

GIVEAWAY!

Get the quilting bug

WIN

If our HomeStyle story on page 8, the V&A quilt exhibition or Kaffe Fassett's mouthwatering fabrics make you long to learn to quilt, now's your chance. The Festival of Quilts is being held at Birmingham NEC from 19-22 August 2010, and is your chance to see inspiring displays, purchase fabric, patterns and other quilting necessities

and take part in workshops, both 'quick and easy' and 'advanced'. Like knitting, quilting requires skill and produces beautiful, yet functional items, making the two perfect hobbies to go together.

For more details on the Festival of Quilts, visit www.twistedthread.com or call Twisted Thread on 020 8692 2299.

* TO ENTER: Text **SKQUILT**, then a space, then your name and address to **87474** or visit www.simplyknitting.co.uk and scroll down to 'Competitions'. Fill in the entry form using the keyword **SKQUILT**. For terms and conditions see page 17.



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A magazine subscription is the perfect gift for the knitter in your life

You can never have too many project bags – particularly when they're as beautiful and useful as this silk bag from Della Q. The ideal size for small projects, it's great for knitters on the go. It can easily be tucked in your handbag, and will rest comfortably on your wrist, keeping your yarn tidy while you knit. It's been designed for knitters, so there's no velcro to snag your yarn – just a toggle fastening which lets your yarn move smoothly as you knit – and a handy pocket for your phone or notions.

Debora

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Dear Debora



Debora Bradley

We'd love to hear from you! Write to us at Dear Debora, *Simply Knitting*, Future, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW or email: simplyknitting@futurenet.com



The same pattern looks very different in new colours.

Twin set

I thought you might like to see the striped jumper and hat set featured in *Simply Knitting* issue 51 (March 2009) that I knitted for my two baby dolls.

I used the colours specified in the pattern for the 'girl version' and the same pale blue shade along with cream, turquoise and air force blue for the 'boy version', omitting the flower trims. They were really easy to make and look so effective – any mixture of colours would look great.

Mrs J Head Nottingham

Debora says: Sirdar Baby

Bamboo is a super yarn, isn't it? (We've found it's interchangeable with their new yarn, Flirt, which gives you even more colours to choose from.) Of course, the knits wouldn't look half as good without your knitting skills, because a yarn with a sheen will show up any split stitches. Yours are perfectly smooth!

Happy endings

Being a keen knitter I often end up with leftover yarns. Inspired by a picture of a blanket on page 13 of *Glorious Knitting* by Kaffe Fassett, I tried to work out the design. I worked in garter stitch and increased by knitting into the front and back and front of the centre stitch on alternate rows. The result was a good-sized blanket and no spare wool!

Marion Walsh Altrincham

Debora says: Kaffe is inspiring, isn't he? He's a keen quilter as well

LETTER WE Love

In association with



Never say never

I would like to show you a couple of pieces that I have designed and knitted. They are inspired by the Harry Potter books.

I am 58 years old, and I started knitting when I was eight. My first project was a

coat hanger cover in needlework classes at school. By the end of the term I had managed about two inches of very tight, very holey knitting which the teacher 'disposed' of with the comment, "You will never make a knitter, young lady!" Well, I hope I have proved her wrong.

Sandy Bramley via email

Debora says: You certainly have proved your teacher wrong, Sandy! Your wizards are very impressive, and I really like the way you've given them realistic hair and added details like braidwork and beads. It's good that she didn't put you off knitting for life!



Sandra proved she is a great knitter.



Letter we love prize

Every month the writer of the Letter We Love will receive a £30 voucher to spend with The Little Knitting Company.

To see their range, which includes exclusive hand-dyed cashmere, merino wool, superfine kid mohair and linen blend yarns, take a look at their site at www.thelittleknittingcompany.co.uk



WRITE TO US

Every letter printed wins!

The writer of each letter we print here will receive a copy of *Patons Woolcraft* and a pair of 4mm bamboo needles, courtesy of our friends at Coats Crafts UK.

Send us your snaps

To make sure your pictures look good in print, follow these three simple rules:

1. Lots of light – a sunny windowsill or outside is great.
2. Take lots of snaps then choose your favourite.
3. Don't edit or resize the photo before you send it to us. While we will endeavour to return any pictures or garments to you, this is not guaranteed. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt.





An amazing mix of colours – and no spare yarn.

as a knitter (he has his own line of cotton fabrics; see page 8) and you can see the influence of this in patterns like the one that inspired you. You've really put the colours together well for your blanket – perhaps you'll inspire someone now, Marion.

Free-range haggis

Last year I entered a competition run by my local knitting group and the theme was 'Homecoming Scotland'. As Homecoming Scotland was celebrating Burns I decided to knit my very own haggis, neeps and tatties. Haggis is commonly mistaken to be a live animal so I decided I would play on this. I went one step further adding a hat, sporran and kilt. (The neeps have already been mashed.) My entry won the 'Original' category. Having recently celebrated Burns' Night I thought I would send it in for others to see.

Donna Neilson Via email

Debora says: Oh, your crocheted haggis and friends are cute,

Donna. Homecoming Scotland (a whole year of celebration) seemed to inspire a lot of Scottish people and people who love Scotland to get knitting – there must be something addictive about the wonderful yarns and traditional patterns the country produces!

Knit five-a-day?

I thought you might like to see my knitted fruit! I made it as a Christmas present for my son, who has just moved into his first flat, and I already have two orders for more from friends who saw it as I was making it.

The apples and oranges, plus satsumas, were made from patterns in Jean Greenhowe's *Jiffyknits* book (I adapted her pumpkin pattern for the satsumas) and also from Alan Dart's Advent calendar fruit patterns. The bananas I did by trial and error. The vital ingredient in them is a length of heavy fuse wire to get the curve; I'd have left that out if they had been for a child, of course, but it

knits different!

Colourful comfort

I loved the Cosy Comfort hottie cover in issue 63, but thought it might be best to use up some stash rather than buy yet more wool! I've made this one with oddments of Rowan Designer DK left over from a jacket I made years ago. I used two strands of yarn which I kept changing to make the colour changes. I had to make a few adjustments to compensate for the change in tension, but I'm very pleased with the result!

Christine Perry Via email

Debora says: That's beautiful colourwork, Christine. I love the colours you've chosen and how they blend together – choosing colours that work well together can be really tricky. And you've reduced your stash into the bargain, which is a bonus.

We love to see how you personalise our patterns – or if you've made a mistake that's turned out great, let us know. And don't forget, every printed letter will win a mini knitter's kit.



Subtle shading adds a new dimension to the cover.

does give them a lovely shape.

Fen Crosbie Edinburgh

Debora says: I love the different skin textures on your fruit, Fen. We have some mini bananas designed by Alan in part 2 of the chimp's tea party next issue (issue 67, May, on sale 22 April 2010) but I think they might be a bit small when sat next to your other fruit. Using wire in your bananas is a clever idea though!

Fab-bergé egg

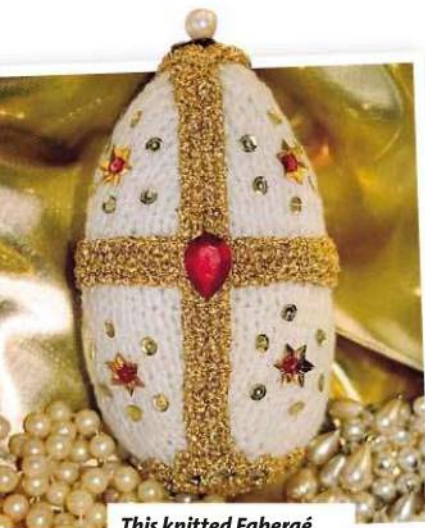
I loved the crocheted eggs in issue 65; they'll certainly be on my table at Easter or given as gifts to my dieting friends. In the meantime, perhaps you'd like to see last year's knitted make? I was inspired by some 3D knitting I'd seen and my admiration of the work of Russian Imperial



Fen's had orders for more of her woolly fruit.



Donna's haggis proudly flaunts his tartan.



This knitted Fabergé egg looks truly opulent.

→ jeweller, Fabergé. While looking opulent, it was actually made from yarn and trimmings from my stash – some even coming from Christmas crackers! I hope it will inspire other knitters to try something different and 'eggstra-special' too.

Mrs C Fletcher Basildon

Debora says: Knit one, pearl many, Mrs Fletcher! That is definitely the most opulent egg

I've seen. Will you be like Fabergé and make a new, equally glitzy, one each Easter?

Dad's the word

I just had to write to you after reading your comment in issue 64 about fathers not getting a look in. My father taught me to knit when I was about six as my mother was such a good knitter she did it too quickly for me to take in. Years later my husband taught my children, both boys and girls, to knit as they found I did it too quickly for them to take in!

Over the years I have done lots of knitting for myself, my children and husband and charity. The photo is of some of

the things I knitted for my great-nieces at Christmas.

Mrs H Judd Sawley

Debora says: You do have lucky great-nieces! That's a stunning array of jumpers and toys. It's great to hear about men teaching knitting, too – do any other readers have generations of male knitters in the family, I wonder?



A relaxing holiday for Joan and her friend, and a lifesaver for vulnerable babies.

Beautiful knits for some very lucky little girls.

Cool ways for hot days

Recently my friend and I took a short holiday to Cyprus. A mutual acquaintance suggested we pack our knitting needles and do something useful while 'chilling out'. This is what we achieved, a batch of jumpers for 'AIDS' babies in Africa.

Joan Bradbury St Albans

Debora says: You both managed a lot of knitting on a short holiday, Joan. That's a lovely array of jumpers, and it must be great knowing that your enjoyable holiday will also help improve the lives of these poorly babies.

KNITTING ALL OVER THE



Ice, ice baby

Here is a photo of my wonderful granddaughter, Rebecca, visiting the Elves Adventure Land in Lapland. Wherever I go I take my knitting, and a copy of *Simply Knitting*.

We had a great time and met Santa in his secret hideaway. I bought some thermal yarn to make hats and scarves just in case we go again next year. I really hope we do.

Pat Jones Morriston



Rebecca will have hand-knitted hats next time she visits Lapland.



Debora says: Now you've got the thermal yarn, Pat, it would be a great pity if you didn't go – you wouldn't want to waste all that hard work knitting hats. (That'd be my excuse anyway: the hat is made, so the holiday is essential!) It certainly looks as though Rebecca enjoyed this trip, though, hand-made hat or not!

We'd love to see more pictures of you with *Simply Knitting* (or even just your knitting!) in foreign lands. Don't forget, the sender of every letter will receive a brilliant mini knitting kit from Coats Crafts UK.

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13 balls soya yarn (sage green)

13 balls of soya yarn plus pattern book, £25 (UK p&p included). Sage colour.
V. Turner, vivienne.turner@btinternet.com

WANTED

Computer jumper pattern

Does anyone have a child's computer jumper pattern published in *Woman's Realm* about 30 years ago? The design features the words 'input' and 'output', zig zag patterns and a detachable plug.

Mrs J Taylor

4 Olive Grove, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EW

Sirdar Wash 'n' Wear shade 273

Has anyone got 3 balls of Sirdar Wash 'n' Wear shade 273 (royal blue) they could sell me? Needed for a school card.

Marie Tipping, mariesclan@hotmail.com

Alan Dart 'Barty Bear'

Does anyone have a copy of Alan Dart's 'Barty Bear' from his Heritage Bear collection or a Mr Charlie the Marmalade Cat knitting pattern? Willing to pay all costs.

Mandy Brown, 01455 272243

Lister Tahiti Random Tints

Colour 388 Ref 6696, 78% mohair, 13% wool, 9% nylon. Need 10 balls but will take more or less. It's purple, blue and aquamarine.

R. Fusco, 02890 653281

12 Kersland Drive, Belfast, BT5 6ER

Debi Birkin patterns

Wanted, Debi Birkin patterns.

V. Turner, vivienne.turner@btinternet.com

Simply Knitting issues 16 and 17

I'm looking for two back issues of *Simply Knitting*, 16 (May 2006) and 17 (June 2006). Will pay.

Paula Coppock, 3 Dean Street, Padham, Burnley, Lancashire BB12 8PL

Back issues of Simply Knitting

I would like to acquire back issues of *Simply Knitting* – any numbers from 1-60.

Hazel Leverett, hazel.leverett@talktalk.net

Patons pattern 1621

I am trying to find a copy of an old favourite knitting pattern. It was a guernsey style pattern in Patons Capstan (from about late 70's/early 80's) The number was 1621.

Theresa Drennan, theresa.drennan@googlemail.com

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MAKE NEW KNITTING FRIENDS

My name is Judith, I'm 36, married with two children. I live in Lincolnshire, England. I have many hobbies including knitting, crochet, sewing, cooking, reading and pen-palling. I would love to hear from anyone who also enjoys similar hobbies.

Judith Mableson, 15 Rhodes Avenue, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7PB

Sweet natured, blue-eyed, blond male, 46, attractive, single and fun, seeks knitting crazy single woman 30-60 wanting tactile and affectionate male to keep warm and have fun

with, who'd help her to knit. Must be able to travel to meet.

John, 07948 675679 (text/call)

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Simply Knitting

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BY MARTIN STOREY

Cherry Blossom



It's the ultimate sign of spring! Knit this stunning jacket and surround yourself with flowers.

This blossom-covered jacket is a very special knit. Anyone who sees it will understand just how much care you've put into it. Your skills will be clear for all the world to see. You don't have to keep the jacket for a special occasion, but if you do have a big event coming up, you can't pick a better design than this.

Designer Martin Storey has pulled out all the stops for this beautiful piece. The first thing everyone will notice – how could they not? – is the intarsia pattern. Each patch of colour is worked separately, with no stranding of yarn across the back of the knitting. "I knitted from separate lengths of yarn, which I added as required but bobbins would work just as well," says Martin.

Intarsia isn't a complex technique, but this jacket features a lot of it. The yarn used is Rowan Pima Cotton. When you work intarsia in wool, the stretch in the yarn can compensate for a little unevenness in tension in the knitting, but cotton has

very little stretch and so your tension will need to be spot-on for this project. Needless to say, this is a design we'd recommend only for experienced intarsia knitters.

We also recommend you don't try altering the colours used unless you are prepared for the extra time and cost of knitting up large swatches to check your substitutions work. With designs using one or two colours it's easy to change shades, but this pattern uses six colours, and changing any one of them will alter the whole look of the jacket.



This pattern, Charm, is one of 51 summery designs for women, men and the home in Rowan Magazine 47. For more details or to find a stockist, visit www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881.

Bloomin' lovely

Because it's such a dramatic piece, you'll want to make your jacket the star piece in your outfit. Don't match it with anything too frilly, and keep patterns on other garments to an absolute minimum. If you're wearing it for a special occasion such as a wedding, a simple shift dress would be perfect. For more casual looks, a pintucked cotton sun dress or similar top with wide-legged trousers would look beautiful.



It's best to the specified colours for this knit.





Pattern Info

You will need...

Rowan, Pima Cotton DK

A pair of 2¼mm needles

A pair of 3¼mm needles

One 28mm button (RW5004 from Bedecked)

For where to buy, see page 96

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:

24 sts and 32 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over pattern using 3¼mm needles



Sizing colour key

So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

8 10 12 14 16
18 20 22

SIZING GUIDE

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
TO FIT BUST	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107	112	117

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

BUST	in	35	37	38	41	43	45	28	50
	cm	90	93	97	103	110	115	122	127
BACK LENGTH	in	28½	28½	28½	30	30	30½	30½	31½
	cm	73	73	73	76	76	78	78	80
SLEEVE LENGTH	in	17½	17½	17½	17½	18	18	17½	17
	cm	44	44	45	45	46	46	45	45

YARN

ROWAN, Pima Cotton DK 50g/130m									
Yarn A Millet (058)	10	10	10	11	11	12	13	13	
Yarn B Peppercorn (065)	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	
Yarn C Pampas (050)	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	
Yarn D Lozenge (055)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Yarn E Salsa (052)	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Yarn F Caftan (054)	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	

Start knitting here

Intarsia: The simplest way to do this is to cut short lengths of yarn for each motif or block of colour used in a row then, joining in the various colours at the appropriate point on the row, link one colour to the next by twisting them around each other where they meet on the wrong side to avoid gaps. All ends can then either be darned along the colour join lines as each motif is completed or then can be 'knitted-in' to the fabric of the knitting as each colour is worked into the pattern. This is done in much the same way as 'weaving-in' yarns when working the Fair Isle technique and does save time darning-in ends. It is essential that the tension is noted for intarsia as this may vary from the stocking stitch if both are used in the same pattern.

BACK

Cast on 108 (112: 116: 124: 132: 138: 146: 152) sts using 3¼mm needles and yarn A.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, using the intarsia technique and repeating the 40 row patt rep throughout, now work in patt from chart, which is worked entirely in st st beg with a K row, as folls:

Cont straight until back meas, 6½ (6½: 6½: 7½: 7½: 7½: 8½)in, 17 (17: 16: 19: 18: 20: 19: 21)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Keeping patt correct, dec 1 st at each end of next and 3 foll 10th rows, then on 2 foll 8th rows.

[96 (100: 104: 112: 120: 126: 134: 140) sts]

Work 9 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Inc 1 st at each end of next and 5 foll 8th rows, taking inc sts into patt.

[108 (112: 116: 124: 132: 138: 146: 152) sts]

Work 11 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. (Back should meas 20 (20: 19½: 20½: 20½: 21½: 20½: 21½)in, 51 (51: 50: 53: 52: 54: 53: 55)cm.)

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Keeping patt correct, cast off 5 (6: 6: 7: 7: 8: 8: 9) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

[98 (100: 104: 110: 118: 122: 130: 134) sts]

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 (5: 7: 7: 9: 9: 11: 11) rows, then on foll 3 (3: 2: 3: 3: 4: 4) alt rows, then on foll 4th row. [80 (82: 84: 88: 92: 96: 98: 102) sts] Cont straight until armhole meas 7½ (7½: 8½: 8½: 8½: 8½: 9: 9)in, 20 (20: 21: 21: 22: 22: 23: 23)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS AND BACK NECK

Cast off 8 (8: 8: 9: 9: 10: 10: 11) sts at beg of next 2 rows. [64 (66: 68: 70: 74: 76: 78: 80) sts]

Next row (RS) Cast off 8 (8: 8: 9: 9: 10: 10: 11) sts, patt until there are 11 (12: 13: 13: 14: 14: 15: 15) sts on right needle and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.

Work each side of neck separately.

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next row.

Cast off rem 7 (8: 9: 9: 10: 10: 11: 11) sts.

With RS facing, rejoin yarns to rem sts, cast off centre 26 (26: 26: 26: 28: 28: 28: 28) sts, patt to end.

Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.



Most colour sections only require a short length of yarn, so you won't need to wind them onto bobbins—just use a cut length.

LEFT FRONT

Cast on 49 (51: 53: 57: 61: 64: 68: 71) sts using 3¼mm needles and yarn A.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, now work in patt from chart as folls:

Work 1 row, ending with WS facing for next row.

Inc 1 st at beg of next row and at same edge on foll 4 rows. [54 (56: 58: 62: 66: 69: 73: 76) sts] Cont straight until left front meas 6½ (6½: 6¾: 7½: 7: 7¾: 7½: 8¼)in, 17 (17: 16: 19: 18: 20: 19: 21)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Keeping patt correct, dec 1 st at beg of next and 3 foll 10th rows, then on 2 foll 8th rows.

[48 (50: 52: 56: 60: 63: 67: 70) sts]

Work 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE FRONT SLOPE

Keeping patt correct, dec 1 st at end (front slope edge) of next and 8 (8: 6: 6: 9: 9: 7: 7) foll 6th rows, then on 1 (1: 2: 2: 0: 0: 1: 1) foll 8th rows and at same time inc 1 st at beg (side seam edge) of 7th and 5 foll 8th rows, taking inc sts into patt.

[44 (46: 49: 53: 56: 59: 64: 67) sts]

Work 1 (1: 5: 5: 3: 3: 7: 7) rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE ARMHOLE

Keeping patt correct, cast off 5 (6: 6: 7: 7: 8: 8: 9) sts at beg and dec 0 (0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 1: 1) st at end of next row.

[39 (40: 43: 46: 49: 51: 55: 57) sts]

Work 1 row.

Dec 1 st at armhole edge of next 5 (5: 7: 7: 9: 9: 11: 11) rows, then on foll 3 (3: 2: 3: 3: 3: 4: 4) alt rows, then on foll 4th row and at same time dec 1 st at front slope edge on 5th (5th: next: next: 3rd: 3rd: 7th: 7th) and 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2: 2: 2) foll 8th rows.

[28 (29: 31: 32: 33: 35: 36: 38) sts]

Dec 1 st at front slope edge only on 6th (6th: 2nd: 8th: 8th: 8th: 8th: 8th) and 4 (4: 5: 4: 4: 4: 4: 4) foll 8th rows. [23 (24: 25: 27: 28: 30: 31: 33) sts]

Cont straight until left front matches back to beg of shoulder shaping, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off 8 (8: 8: 9: 9: 10: 10: 11) sts at beg of next and foll alt row.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 7 (8: 9: 9: 10: 10: 11: 11) sts.

RIGHT FRONT

Cast on 49 (51: 53: 57: 61: 64: 68: 71) sts using 3¼mm needles and yarn A.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, now work in patt from chart as folls:

Work 1 row, ending with WS facing for next row.

Inc 1 st at end of next row and at same edge on foll 4 rows. [54 (56: 58: 62: 66: 69: 73: 76) sts]

Complete to match left front, reversing shapings.

SLEEVES

Cast on 60 (60: 62: 62: 64: 64: 66: 66) sts using 3¼mm needles and yarn A.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, now work in patt from chart, shaping sides by inc 1 st at each end of 11th (9th: 9th: 9th: 9th: 9th: 7th: 7th) and every foll 12th (10th: 10th: 10th: 10th: 10th: 10th: 8th) row to 76 (68: 66: 78: 76: 88: 92: 78) sts, then on every foll 14th (12th: 12th: 12th: 12th: 12th: —: 10th) row until there are 80 (82: 84: 86: 88: 90: —: 94) sts, taking inc sts into patt.

Cont straight until sleeve meas 17½ (17½: 17½: 17½: 18: 18: 17½: 17½)in, 44 (44: 45: 45: 46: 46: 45: 45) cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE TOP

Keeping patt correct, cast off 5 (6: 6: 7: 7: 8: 8: 9) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

[70 (70: 72: 72: 74: 74: 76: 76) sts]

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 rows, then on foll 3 alt rows, then on 4 foll 4th rows.

[46 (46: 48: 48: 50: 50: 52: 52) sts]

knit tip

If you are using bobbins, untangle them when you get to the end of each row.



Fashionknit

HOW TO...

ADD A BUTTON

Here's our professional guide to adding buttons to your knitting.



1

Use matching yarn, weaving it in on the wrong side to secure it. Bring the needle out at the place you want to position the button, slip the button on to the needle and pull the yarn through.



2

Take the yarn back through the button, pulling the yarn firmly. Come out again at the front and repeat this action.



3

Bring the yarn to the front of the knitting, under the button and wrap the yarn a couple of times round the base of the button, pulling the yarn tight. Take the yarn to the back of the knitting and secure in place.

Reader offer!

Save 10% off
Rowan Pima Cotton
Turn to page 66 for details
of this great offer.



Pattern Info

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	begin(ning)
cont	continue
dec	decreas(e)(ing)
fol	following
inc	increas(e)(ing)
K	knit
P	purl
rem	remain(ing)
rep	repeat
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
patt	pattern
tog	together
RS	right side
WS	wrong side



Try not to let your tension change between knitting the fronts and knitting the collar.

Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.
Dec 1 st at each end of next and every foll alt row until 30 sts rem, then on foll 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off rem 24 sts.

TO MAKE UP

Block out each piece of knitting and, following the instructions on the ball band, press the garment pieces, omitting the ribs.
Join both shoulder seams using backstitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

LEFT LAPEL AND COLLAR

Cast on 2 sts using 3¼mm needles and yarn A.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, now work in patt from chart as folls:

Inc 1 st at beg of 4th row and at same edge on 11 foll 3rd rows, then on 9 foll 4th rows, taking inc sts into patt. [23 sts]

Work 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Next row (RS) Cast off 13 sts, turn and cast on 13 sts, turn and patt to end. [23 sts]

Cont straight until shaped edge of lapel and collar, unstretched, fits up left front slope from beg of front slope shaping to centre back neck, ending with WS facing for next row.

Cast off 6 sts at beg of next and foll 2 alt rows.

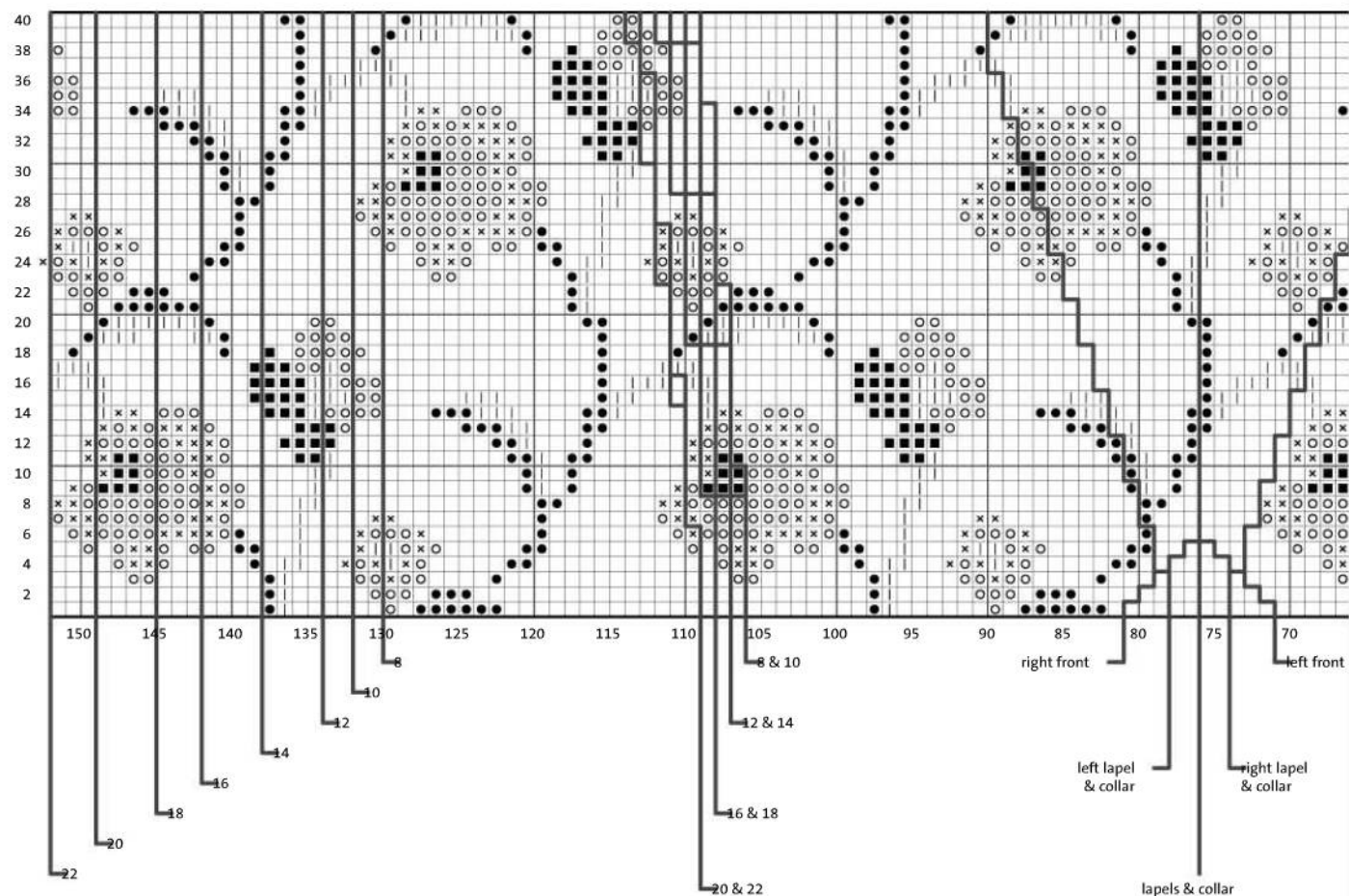
Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 5 sts.

CHART

KEY

- A
- B
- × C
- D
- E
- F





RIGHT LAPEL AND COLLAR

Cast on 2 sts using 3¼mm needles and yarn A. Beg and ending rows as indicated, now work in patt from chart as folls:

Inc 1 st at end of 4th row and at same edge on 11 foll 3rd rows, then on 9 foll 4th rows, taking inc sts into patt. [23 sts]

Work 4 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

Next row (WS) Cast off 13 sts, turn and cast on 13 sts, turn and patt to end. [23 sts]

Cont straight until shaped edge of lapel and collar, unstretched, fits up right front slope from beg of front slope shaping to centre back neck, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off 6 sts at beg of next and foll 2 alt rows. Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 5 sts.

Join cast-off ends of collar sections, then, matching cast-on points to beg of front slope shaping, sew shaped row-end edges of lapels and collars in place to front slope and back neck edges.

Join side seams.

LOWER EDGING

Cast on 5 sts using 2¼mm needles and yarn A.

Row 1 (RS) K2, P1, K2.

Row 2 K1, (P1, K1) twice.

These 2 rows form rib.

Cont in rib until edging fits around entire front

opening and hem edges, beg and ending at beg of front slope shaping, easing edging around front corners and ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in rib.

Slip stitch edging in place, leaving opening in seam just below beg of right front slope to form buttonhole.

COLLAR AND LAPEL EDGING

Cast on 5 sts using 2¼mm needles and yarn A.

Work in rib as given for lower edging until this strip fits around entire lapel and collar edges, beg and ending at beg of front slope shaping, easing edging around corners and ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in rib.

Slip stitch edging in place, then join ends of this edging to ends of lower edging.

CUFF EDGINGS (BOTH ALIKE)

Cast on 5 sts using 2¼mm needles and yarn A.

Work in rib as given for lower edging until this strip fits along cast-on edge of sleeve, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in rib.

Slip stitch edging in place.

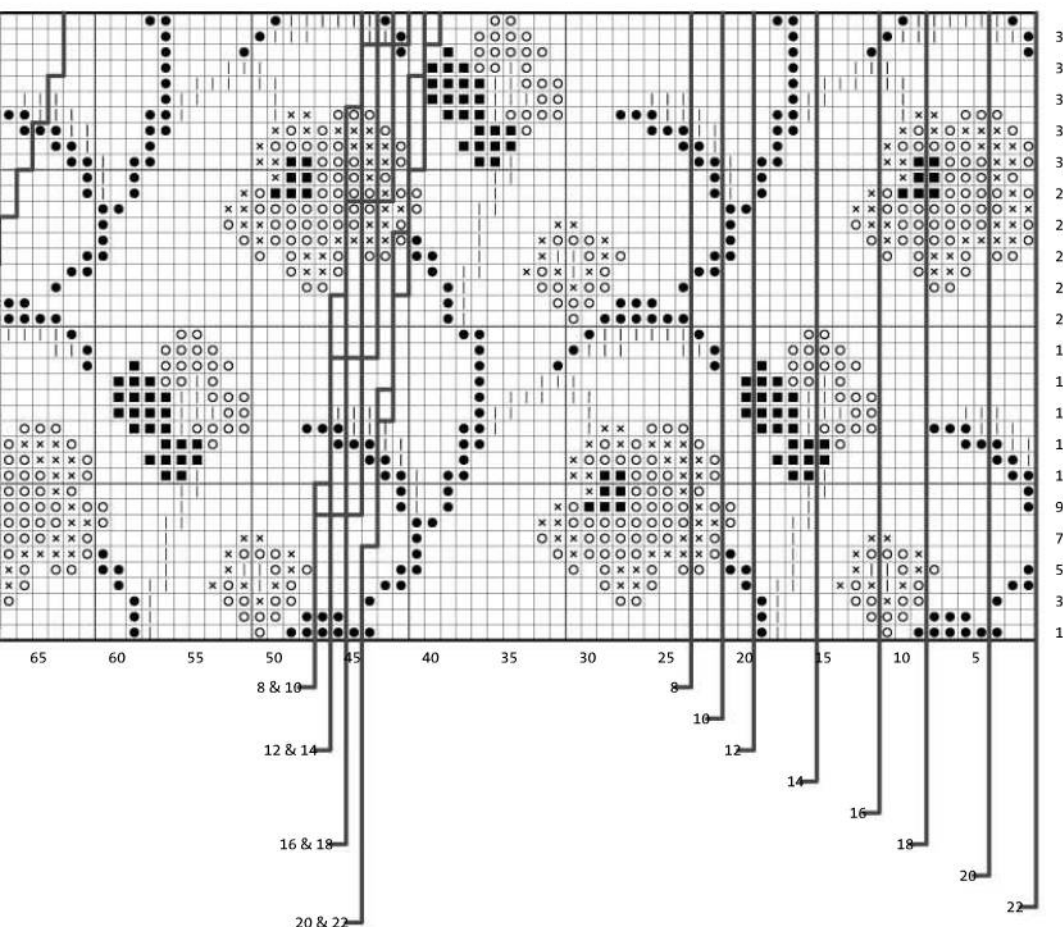
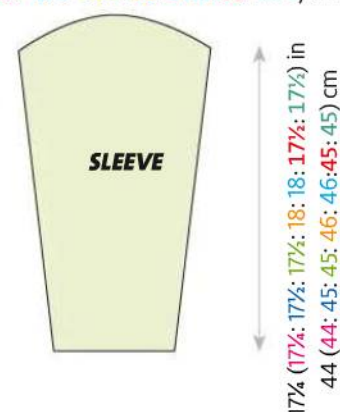
Set-in sleeves, place centre of cast-off edge of sleeve to shoulder seam. Set in sleeve, easing sleeve head into armhole.



Note that the button band/buttonhole band and collar are joined together.



17½ (18½: 19: 20½: 21½: 22½: 24: 25) in
45 (46.5: 48.5: 51.5: 55: 57.5: 61: 63.5) cm



Next issue, knit a beautiful teal cabled cardigan. Issue 67, May, will be in the shops from Thursday 22 April 2010.

Rowan stockists

If you're looking for Rowan yarns, all these shops can help you find just what you need. Drop into your local shop or buy online.

SOUTH EAST

We Three

16 Crown Street
Brentwood
Essex
CM14 484

01277221709

greenfingered45@aol.com

SOUTHEAST

JJ Wool & Crafts

89 Station Road
Chingford
London
E4 7BU

0208 523 7172

jjwoolandcrafts@yahoo.co.uk

SOUTHEAST

Purl

16 Upper Road
Brighton
BN1 5DF

01273 248642

purl@brighton@gmail.com

SOUTH EAST

The Yarn Barn

173 Eastney Road
Southsea, Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO4 8EA

023 9275 2555

info@theyarnbarnltd.co.uk
www.the yarnbarnltd.co.uk

SOUTH EAST

Carly's Crafts

Shop 1
1a Cardigan Road
Winton, Bournemouth
BH9 1BJ

01202 512106

michelek1964@hotmail.com

SOUTH WEST

Honora

69 High Street
Christchurch, Dorset
BH23 1AS

01202 486000

support@knittingyarns.co.uk
www.knittingyarns.co.uk

SOUTH WEST

Marmalade Yarns

11 Catherine Hill
Frome
Somerset
BA11 1B2

01373 473557

www.Marmaladeyarns.co.uk

SOUTH WEST

Spin A Yarn Devon

26 Fore Street
Bovey Tracey
Devon
TQ13 9AD

01626 836203

info@spinayarndevon.co.uk
www.spinayarndevon.co.uk

SOUTH WEST

Hayes Woools

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Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3HT

01823 284768

hayeswools@btconnect.com

SOUTH WEST

Hulu

Sentinel House
Poundwell
Modbury
Devon
PL21 0XX

www.hulucrafts.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

Material Girls

9 Market Place
Alcester
B49 5AE

01789 763733

material@girls.
orangehome.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

Threads of Life

67 Borough Street
Castle Donington
Derby
DE74 2LB

01332 811597

info@threadsoflife.co.uk
www.threadsoflife.co.uk

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Beckside Yarns & Needlecraft

Beckside Gallery
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Via Lancaster
North Yorkshire LA2 8EA

01524 251122

info@becksideyarns.co.uk

NORTH WEST

Sew-In of Didsbury

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Didsbury
Manchester
M20 6RN

0161 445 5861

www.knitting-and-
needlework.co.uk

NORTH WEST

Fibre & Clay

11 - 13 Minshall Street
Knutsford
Cheshire
WA16 6HG

0156562035

info@fibreandclay.co.uk
www.fibreandclay.co.uk

NORTH WEST

Home Made UK

3 Mill Street
Nantwich, Cheshire
CW5 5ST

01270 625318

andyozard@btopenworld.com

www.homemadeuk.com

SCOTLAND

Mandors

Fleming House
134 Renfrew Street
Glasgow
G3 6ST

01413 327716

fabric@mandors.co.uk
www.mandors.co.uk

SCOTLAND

Outback Yarns

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Castle Douglas
Kirkcudbrightshire
DG7 1LU

sarahmckie@btinternet.com

www.outbackyarns.com

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BY EMMA KING

Infinitely Stylish

Great for
advanced
knitters

When maths and fashion collide, the result is a wearable scarf with fascinating properties.



Pattern Info

You will need...

Rowan, Milk Cotton DK

1x 50g/113m ball of each:

Yarn A Water Bomb (098)

Yarn B Apple Pips (082)

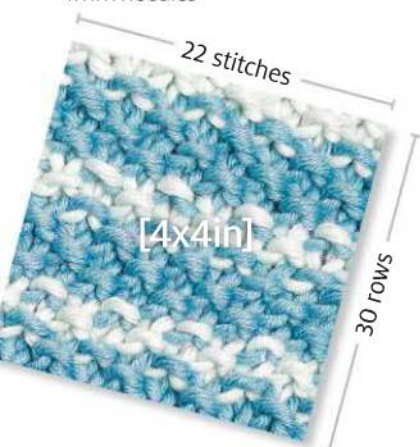
A 4mm circular needle

For where to buy, see page 96

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:

22 sts and 30 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over moss stitch using 4mm needles



Abbreviations

K knit
P purl
st(s) stitch(es)

Milk fibre yarn is amazingly soft.



There's only one side to this scarf! Weave your ends in next to each other, so they're all in the same place and can be hidden.

This scarf has just one side. Don't believe us? It's a knitted version of a mathematical object called a Möbius strip, and if you put your finger on the surface of the knitting and trace it all around the scarf, you'll find you cover every surface of the scarf without crossing an edge—unlike a regular loop, it doesn't have a 'front' and 'back'. "The Möbius strip is such a clever shape. The way the cast on creates an endless tube is very satisfying from the knitter's point of view as it's really exciting to see the shape developing as you knit," says designer Emma King.

Emma designed the scarf using Rowan Milk Cotton. This is an unusual yarn, being partly made from milk fibre. Milk Fibre is extremely soft, with a beautiful drape, so it's perfect for feminine accessories. Working in two colours really accentuates the unusual shape of the scarf.

knit tip

When you weave in the loose ends, run them alongside the same colour so they don't show.

"The scarf is easy to wear and the drape creates a 'layered' look."

Emma King,
accessory & knitwear designer

stitches on the left hand tip down onto the flex and work them from here, rather than off the needle itself.

The circular needle will now be coiled around twice, with one coil inside the other. This early stage of the Möbius cast on is quite tricky and

the knitting is a bit awkward to handle but don't be put off! The knitting gets easier to manage as you progress. There is also a temptation to think that you have gone wrong due to the unusual appearance of the work, but again, don't be put off, it will become clear as you continue.

Using a piece of contrasting waste yarn, place a marker next to the first stitch on your right-hand tip. This will identify where each round begins. Make sure the marker moves from round to round with you, indicating the beginning of each new round.

Round 1 Ensuring that the work is not twisted, insert the right tip into the first stitch on the left hand tip and knit it together with the second stitch. This joins your Möbius strip and creates the characteristic half twist.

Start knitting here

SCARF

Cast on 131 sts loosely using yarn B and a 4mm circular needle.

Next, pick up and knit one stitch below each of the 131 cast on stitches as follows:

Insert the right hand tip into the thread directly under the first cast on stitch and pick up and knit one stitch, leaving the original cast on stitch on the left needle. Continue in this way for each of the 131 stitches, and you will end up with 262 stitches in total.

Note This is easier to manipulate if you slide the



HOW TO...

WORK A MÖBIUS CAST ON

While the method for casting on a Möbius scarf sounds somewhat tricky, in practice, as long as you can knit a stitch you'll find this technique easy to master.



1 Loosely cast on the 131 stitches that are stated on the pattern, using any method you prefer. We've used thumb cast on here, but cable would work just as well.



2 Now insert the right needle into the thread below the first cast on stitch you made, leaving the original stitch on the left needle. It's easier to work if you slide the stitches onto the plastic cord of the needle.



3 Knit this stitch holding the plastic cord and using it as your left-hand needle. Keep this stitch on the right-hand needle.



4 Continue knitting into each of the cast on stitches, until you reach the end. You will end up with twice the number of stitches. The stitches will then move up on to the bamboo or metal part of the needle.



5 Once you've completed the cast on you will notice that the circular needle will now be coiled around twice, with one coil inside the other.



6 This early stage of the Möbius cast on is quite tricky and the knitting is a bit awkward to handle but don't be put off! The knitting gets easier to manage as you progress with the pattern.



7 Continue to knit following the instructions of the pattern (we've used stocking stitch here for a clear picture). Once you've got a couple of rows knitted, you'll find that the scarf grows quickly.



8 The knitting grows out from both sides of the cast on edge. The twist will become more obvious as the knitting grows.



9 When you reach the end of the pattern, cast off your stitches as normal.

Now work rest of round 1 as follows:
(K1, P1) to last st, K1.

Round 2 (P1, K1) to last st, P1.

Repeat the last 2 rounds for the rest of the scarf, working stripes of colours as follows:

2 rounds of yarn A
2 rounds of yarn B
4 rounds of yarn A
2 rounds of yarn B
4 rounds of yarn A

6 rounds of yarn B
2 rounds of yarn A
4 rounds of yarn B
6 rounds of yarn A
1 round of yarn B

Cast off loosely in moss pattern. ●

For a button-up scarf, turn to page 47 and our Quick & Easy Knits section, where we've a colourful scarf using Noro yarn for you to knit.

Reader offer!

Save 12% off
Rowan Milk Cotton

Turn to page 66 to find out
how you can knit this pretty
scarf for less.

BY PAT MENCHINI



A Touch of Lace

Rain or shine, this pretty smock-shaped top will take you through all the changeable days of spring.

The weather may not be able to decide what it's doing at this time of year, but we always have lots to do, whether it's scorching or pouring. With this smock-shaped tunic top you'll be ready for anything!

The yarn used is Debbie Bliss Cashmerino DK, a yarn that's warm and soft, but not too thick. On brighter days you'll be able to wear the top on its own, right next to your skin. If things are looking gloomier out, hide a vest top or scoop-necked T-shirt under it, so you've got two layers for added snugness. It's thin enough that if the weather takes a really nasty turn, a chunky, sloppy knit will sit happily on top of the smock.

trendy... it would even look cute paired with shorts or cropped trousers. Again this means it's wearable all the way through spring. "This is a top to wear over trousers, not a skirt I think. It can still be dressed up, though; worn with a chunky mixed bead necklace it would be good for casual evening wear as well," says designer Pat Menchini.

Cashmerino DK is one of Debbie Bliss' most popular yarns, and comes in 30 colours. Pat chose one of this season's new shades, a vibrant cyclamen pink that will look great as part of the current trend for tropical floral prints. However, as the yarn is also available in many other shades it's easy to choose one you'll get lots of wear from.

Virtually any 'bottoms' will go with the smock, too: jeans for everyday, leggings if you're feeling

Get back

Pat has chosen a simple lace stitch for the bottom part of the smock. "The stitch pattern is very simple so should be fine for a first attempt at lace," she says. It will require you to know how to purl into the back as well as the front of the loop. You'll also need to knit into the back of some stitches to create the strong vertical ribs; when you do this it twists the stitch ever so slightly, making the knit stitches on the right side more prominent.

You'll have lots of ways to wear this smock for months to come, and there are so many colours of yarn to choose from — once you've knitted one, you might find yourself casting on another!



One of Debbie Bliss' best-selling yarns.







Pattern Info

You will need...

Debbie Bliss, Cashmerino DK

A pair of 3¼mm needles

A pair of 4mm needles

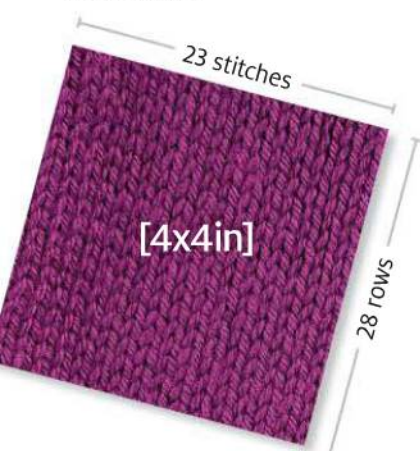
A 4.5mm crochet hook

For where to buy, see page 96

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:

23 sts and 28 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over rib pattern using 4mm needles.



Sizing colour key

So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

■XS ■S ■M ■L ■XL

SIZING GUIDE

SIZE		XS	S	M	L	XL
TO FIT BUST	in	31-33	34-36	37-39	40-42	43-45
	cm	79-84	86-91	94-99	102-107	109-114

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

BUST	in	34½	37	40	42½	45½
	cm	88	94	102	108	116
BACK LENGTH	in	22½	23	23¾	24¾	25
	cm	57	58	60	61	63
SLEEVE LENGTH	in	17½	17½	17½	17½	17½
	cm	44	44	44	44	44

YARN

DEBBIE BLISS Cashmerino DK 50g/110m						
Plnk (37)	11	12	13	14	15	

Start knitting here

FRONT

Cast on 149 (161: 173: 185: 197) sts using 4mm needles.

Row 1 (RS) K1, (KB, P1) to last 2 sts, KB, K1.

Row 2 K1, (PB, K1) to end.

Change to patt:

Row 1 P5, (KB, P5) to end.

Row 2 K5, (PB, K5) to end.

Rows 3-8 Rep rows 1 and 2 three times.

Row 9 P3, (p2tog, yon, KB, yfwd, yrn, p2tog tbl, P1) to last 2 sts, P2.

Row 10 K5, (PB, K5) to end.

Rows 11-14 Rep rows 9 and 10 twice.

Rep these 14 rows until work measures approx 10½in (27cm), ending after a lace row.

Next row K1, k3tog, K1, (PB, K1, k3tog, K1) to end. [99 (107: 115: 123: 131) sts]

Next row P3, (KB, P3) to end.

Next row K3, (PB, K3) to end.

Rep the last 2 rows until front measures 16¼in (41cm) from beg, measured through centre of work and ending after a WS row. Place a marker 24 sts in from left edge on last row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Cast off 6 (7: 8: 8: 9) sts loosely at beg of next 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 (5: 5: 7: 7) rows, then on every foll alt row until 71 (77: 81: 87: 91) sts rem.

Cont straight for a few rows until work measures 3in (7cm) from marker, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

Next row Patt 20 (21: 22: 23: 24), turn.

Cont on this group of sts.

Dec 1 st at neck edge on next 5 rows, then on every foll alt row until 12 (13: 14: 15: 16) sts rem. Cont straight until work meas 6¼ (6¼: 7½: 8: 8¼) in, 15 (17: 19: 20: 22)cm from marker, ending at armhole edge.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Cast off 4 (4: 5: 5: 5) sts at beg of next and foll alt row.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 4 (5: 4: 5: 6) sts.

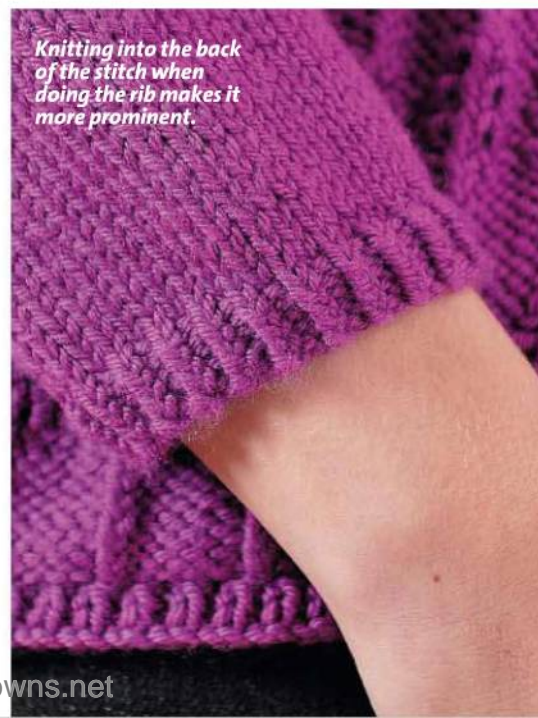
With RS facing, slip centre 31 (35: 37: 41: 43) sts on a spare needle.

Rejoin yarn and work 1 row. Complete to match first side.

BACK

Omitting neck shaping, work as front to shoulder shaping, ending after a WS row.

Knitting into the back of the stitch when doing the rib makes it more prominent.





knit tip

When knitting the neckband, match up the rib pattern sts with the twisted knit sts of the main body.

When you launder your top, don't press the ribs flat.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off 4 (4: 5: 5) sts at beg of next 4 rows, then 4 (5: 4: 5: 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. Slip rem 47 (51: 53: 57: 59) sts onto a spare needle.

SLEEVES

Cast on 41 (43: 47: 49: 53) sts using 3¼mm needles.

Work 4 rows in twisted rib as at commencement of front.

Change to 4mm needles and, beg K row, work in st st shaping sleeve by inc 1 st at each end of next row, then on every foll 10th (8th: 8th: 6th: 6th) row until there are 49 (51: 73: 63: 75) sts, then on every foll 12th (10th: 10th: 8th: 8th) row until there are 63 (69: 77: 83: 89) sts. Cont straight until sleeve measures 17½in (44cm) from beg, ending after a P row.

SHAPE TOP

Cast off 6 (7: 8: 8: 9) sts loosely at beg of next 2 rows. Dec 1 st each end of 5th row following, then on every K row until 27 (29: 35: 39: 41) sts rem, then on every row until 17 (19: 25: 29: 31) sts rem.

Cast off loosely.

NECK BAND

Join left shoulder.

Using 3¼mm needles, RS facing, K across sts of back, K up 26 (29: 32: 37: 42) sts evenly down left front neck, K across centre sts, finally K up 27 (30: 33: 38: 43) sts evenly up right front neck. [131 (145: 155: 173: 187) sts]

Beg 2nd row, work 8 rows in rib as at commencement of front.

Cast off evenly knitwise.

HOW TO...

P2TOG TBL

Decrease by purling 2 sts together through the back of the loops.



1

Insert the right-hand needle through the next two stitches from the back of the knitting to be purled, from left to right.



2

Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle as for a normal purl stitch.



3

Pull the yarn through the two stitches to create a stitch and slip the two stitches off the left-hand needle.



4

As you can see, decreasing like this causes the stitch to slant to the left.



Pattern Info

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cont	continue
dec	decrease, decreasing
fol	following
inc	increase, increasing
K	knit
KB	K into back of next st
patt	pattern
P	purl
PB	P into back of next st
rep	repeat
rem	remain(ing)
R(W)S	right (wrong) side facing
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
tog	together
tbl	through back of loops
yon	yarn over needle
yfwd	yarn forward
ym	yarn round needle



When you knit the neckband, line up the ribs on the body with the neckband ribs for extra neatness.

TO MAKE UP

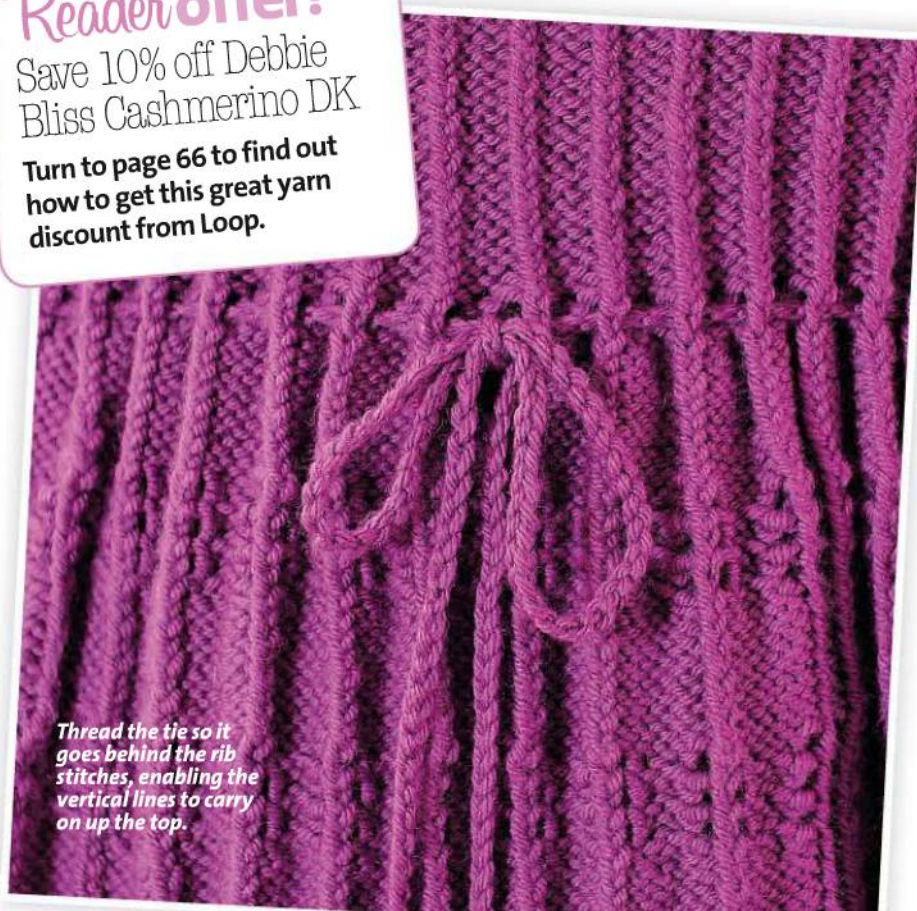
Press work lightly on WS following pressing instructions on the ball band. Join right shoulder and neckband. Sew sleeve tops in place. Join side and sleeve seams. Crochet a chain for tie using a 4½mm crochet hook, making chain approx 62 (65: 68: 71: 74 in, 157 (165: 172: 180: 186)cm long. Slot chain through last eyelet row on back and front. Press seams. ●

If you want a knit for special occasions, turn to page 20 and cast on our gorgeous floral jacket, designed by Martin Storey.

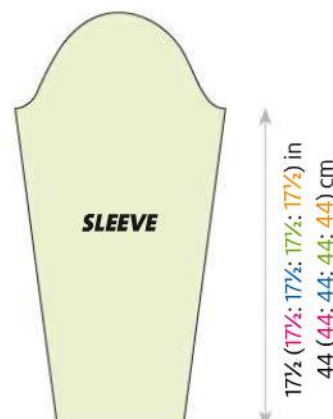
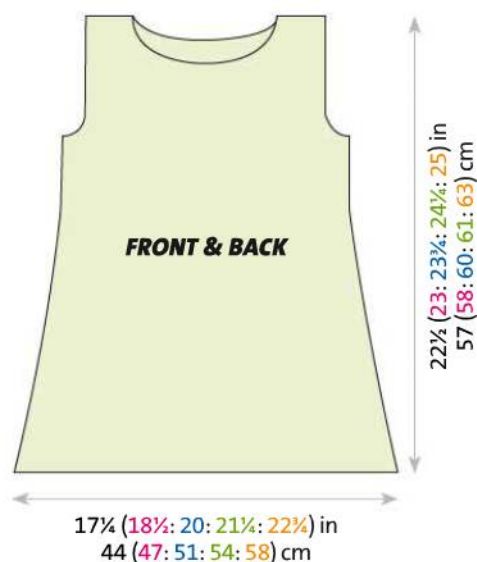
Reader offer!

Save 10% off Debbie Bliss Cashmerino DK

Turn to page 66 to find out how to get this great yarn discount from Loop.



Thread the tie so it goes behind the rib stitches, enabling the vertical lines to carry on up the top.



Discover
seamless
knitting

BY DEBBIE TOMKIES

Round Robin

Confused by knitting in the round? Knit this child's top and learn an essential technique too.



Pattern Info

You will need...

DT Craft & Design, Lambswool Angora Cashmere DK

A 31½in (80cm) 4mm circular needle

A 31½in (80cm) 4½mm circular needle

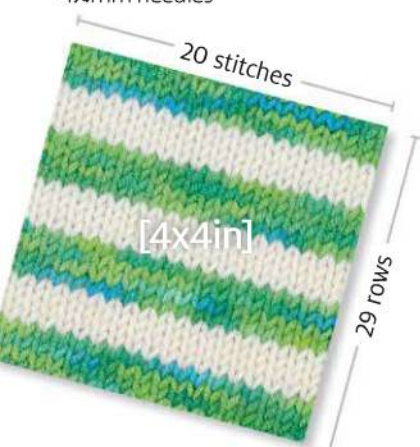
A pair of 4½mm needles (optional)

For where to buy, see page 96

Tension

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension:

20 sts and 29 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over stocking stitch using 4½mm needles



Sizing colour key

So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

■ 2 yrs ■ 4 yrs ■ 6 yrs

SIZING GUIDE

SIZE		2 yrs	4 yrs	6 yrs
TO FIT CHEST	in	21	22	24
	cm	54	56	61

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

CHEST	in	21½	24	26
	cm	55	61	66
BACK LENGTH	in	13	13½	15½
	cm	33	35	39

YARN

DT CRAFT & DESIGN Lambswool Angora Cashmere 50g/130m

Yarn A Sea blue-green

1 2 2

Yarn B Natural

1 2 2

Hate sewing seams? Knitting in the round isn't just good for knitting socks, it's perfect for all sorts of garments, drastically reducing or even

eliminating the time you have to spend 'making up'. This pretty top, designed by Debbie Tomkies, is worked in the round for a virtually seamless knit – the only sewn joins are at the shoulders. "Knitting in the round is often quicker as, with a stocking stitch garment, all rows are knitted – there are no purl rows," says Debbie.

Knitting in the round

Knitting in the round refers to knitting which is worked in a tube rather than as a flat panel. Also referred to as 'circular knitting', it is a very useful technique for avoiding seams and creating knitted fabrics which require minimal making up. Popular items for circular knitting include socks, mittens, gloves and hats, but larger garments such as sweaters, jackets and tops may also be knitted in the round. Many traditional garments such as guernseys and Fair Isle sweaters were knitted in this way as, with practice, it is quicker and, in Fair Isle knitting in particular, floats (the yarn not in use being carried between colour changes), can be dealt with more neatly using seam-free knitting.

Circular needles

A circular needle comprises two short needles joined by a flexible cord.

Different cord lengths are available and choosing the right length is important. Ideally, stitches should fit comfortably round the needles and cord without being stretched. Some kits offer interchangeable cords that can be joined together for even greater lengths. For projects with a very

small circumference, it may be necessary to change between circular and double-pointed needles, or to use the 'magic loop' technique.

Stitch markers are an important tool when knitting in the round as it can be difficult to tell where a round begins and ends, particularly as the knitting progresses. In addition to marking the end of a round, markers are used to identify pattern changes and repeats and to denote where shaping takes place. Markers can be simply a short loop of yarn, plastic split rings, or the lovely beaded markers which are now widely available.

Start knitting here

LOVEHEART TOP BOTTOM (KNITTED IN ROUND)

Cast on 110 (122: 132) sts using yarn A and 4mm circular needle.

Join the circle, taking care not to twist the stitches. Use a stitch marker or loop of contrasting yarn to mark the side 'seams' at the beginning and at the halfway point.

[55 (61: 66) sts]

Graft the shoulders and there will be no bulky seams at all.



You may find knitting stocking stitch in the round much faster than knitting it flat.

knit tip

You can use a three-needle cast-off or Kitchener stitch to join the shoulders.

MOSS STITCH BORDER

Round 1 *K1, P1 rep from * to end of round.

Round 2 *P1, K1 rep from * to end of round.

Rep rounds 1 and 2 three more times (8 rounds worked in total).

Round 9 Change to 4½mm circular needle and yarn B, K22 (25: 28) sts, place a stitch marker to denote the start of the pattern band and work row 1 of chart pattern. Place a marker at end of pattern band 11 (11: 11) sts. K to end of round.

Round 10 K22 (28: 33) sts to marker, work pattern band row 2 from pattern chart, K to end of round.

Round 11 K22 (28: 33) sts to marker, work pattern band row 3 from pattern chart, K to end of round.

Round 12 K22 (28: 33) sts to marker, work pattern band row 4 from pattern chart, K to end of round.

Round 13 Change to yarn A and work next four rounds in A, working pattern bands according to chart.

Rounds 17–20 Change to yarn B and work next four rounds in B, working pattern bands according to chart.

Continue working as above, changing colours every 4 rounds and repeating the chart pattern rows as indicated until 47 (51: 59) rounds have been completed (excluding moss stitch border). [Work measures approx. 6¼ (6½: 8)in, 16 (17: 20.5)cm].

Divide for front and back.

Round 48 K55 (61: 66) sts to side seam marker. Retain markers either side of pattern band so as to keep continuity of pattern band. Place these sts on a holder.

BACK

Continue on rem sts to work the back. You will be knitting back and forth in rows and may prefer to change to straight needles for this section. There is no pattern band on the back but be sure to change colours for the stripes!

ARMHOLES

With RS facing and keeping continuity of stripes, cast off 4 (4: 4) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Row 3 K1, sl 1, K1, psso, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 4 Purl.

Continue working on these 45 (51: 56) sts in st st (starting with a K row) for a further 24 (26: 28) rows ending on a P row. [Armhole depth approx. 4 (4¼: 4½)in, 10 (10.5: 11)cm]

SHAPE NECK

Both sides of the neck are worked at the same time.

K13 (16: 18), slip next 19 (19: 20) sts onto a holder. With a second ball of yarn, K rem 13 (16: 18) sts to end of row.

Row 1 P to last 3 sts, p2tog, P1. On second half of neck, P1, p2tog, P to end.

Row 2 K to last 3 sts, sl 1, K1, psso, K1. On second half of neck, K1, k2tog, K to end.

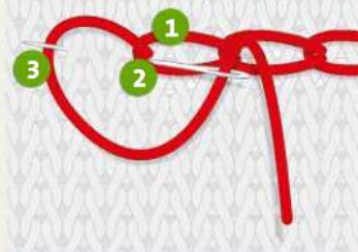


Littleknit

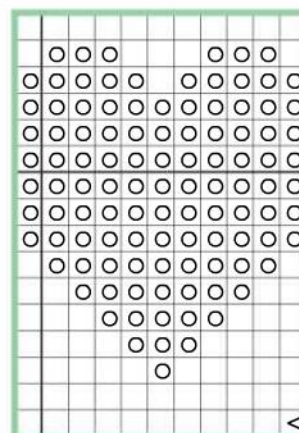
HOW TO... EMBROIDER

Chain stitch is used for the hearts on the front of the top.

Chain stitch



A series of loops, chain stitch is used for the outlines of the hearts. Come out of the fabric at 1, where you want to begin, and leaving a loop, go back down again in the same hole at 2. Bring the needle out again at 3, keeping the thread under the needle. Repeat. Make a small stitch over the last loop to secure it.



KEY

- ☐ Knit
- ☐ Purl
- ☐ First stitch

How to use our charts

Our charts are illustrations of patterns, used instead of writing the pattern out in full. Each stitch is represented by a symbol, and you'll start at the bottom right-hand corner. Right side rows are read from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. Each row of squares represents a row of knitting.

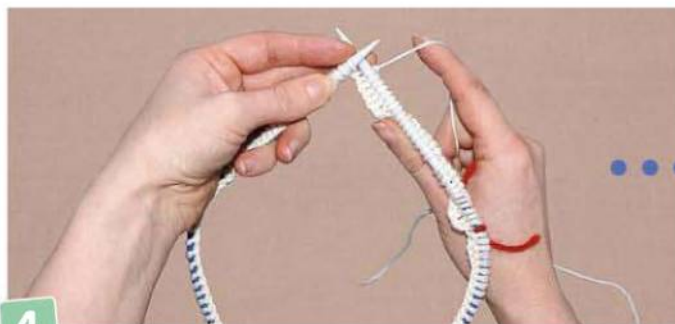
KNITTING IN THE ROUND



1 Cast on using your preferred technique, holding one needle in each hand, or, for long-tail and other single-needle cast on methods, holding one needle in the RH as normal. As the needle fills, allow the stitches to slide off onto the cord.



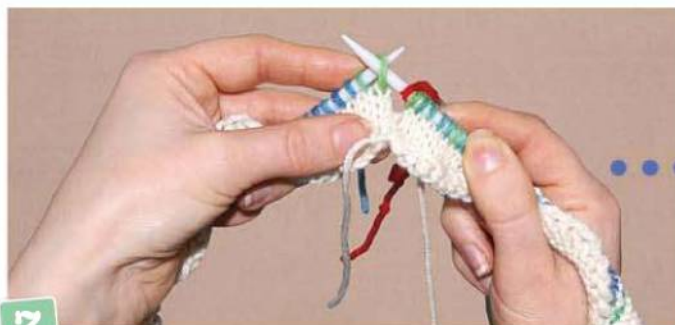
2 With all the stitches cast on, the work needs to be joined to form a circle. Lay work flat, needle points together. Spread stitches evenly round needles and cord and check that there are no twists in the cast on stitches.



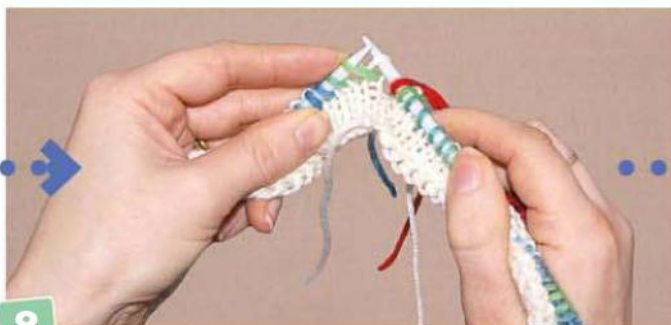
4 Continue to knit stitches onto RH needle. As knitting progresses, shuffle stitches around the cord onto LH needle, ready to be knitted. At the same time, as RH needle fills up, allow the knitted stitches to slide onto cord, keeping tension even around the work as much as possible to avoid distorting work.



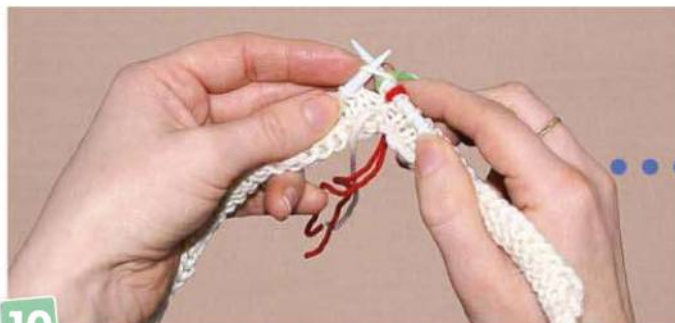
5 When marker is reached, this completes one 'round' (equivalent to one row in flat knitting). In charted knitting this is represented by one row on the chart. Continue knitting by first slipping marker over to RH needle, then working next stitch on LH needle, drawing up yarn firmly and knitting round to marker as before.



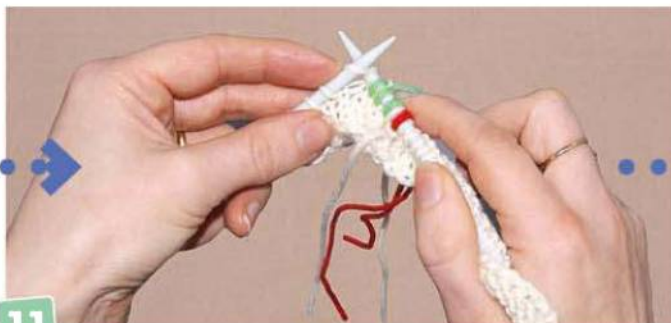
7 **SLIP STITCH METHOD** In colour A, knit required number of rounds. Place marker on RH needle. Change to B. Knit complete round to marker. Slip marker to RH needle then slip next st on LH needle purlwise onto RH needle. Continue in B until next colour change, marking rounds with marker. Rep. as above, keeping the start of the round in the same place.



8 **LIFTED STITCH METHOD** In colour A, knit required number of rounds. Place marker on RH needle. Change to B. Knit complete round to marker. Slip marker to RH needle. Lift RH leg of stitch from previous round (in colour A) and knit together with first stitch of new colour (B). Continue knitting in B until next colour change and repeat as above.



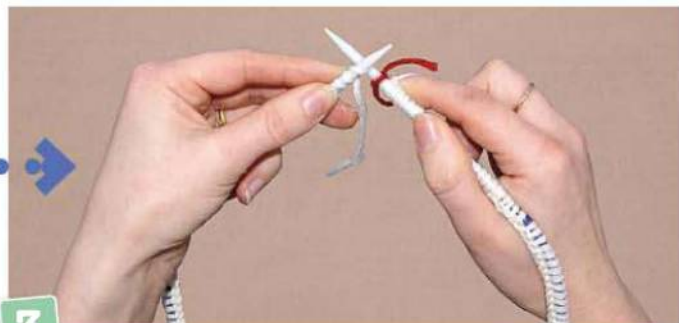
10 **TWO-STRAND METHOD** In colour A, knit required number of rounds. Slip marker to RH needle. Change to B, but knit next stitch with both A and B. Pull old colour (A), to back and continue knitting in new yarn (B).



11 Having knitted the first stitch with both strands, both will be visible, however, this is dealt with on the next round. Unlike the slip-stitch and lifted stitch method, this method does not shorten the knitting, so should not pull up.



Here's how to start knitting your top, and how to give your stripe pattern a more professional, 'jogless' finish.



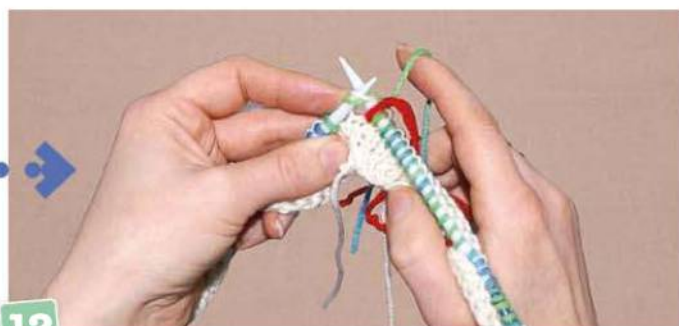
3 Place a stitch marker on RH needle to mark the start and end of the round. Lift the work, holding needles as normal, with the cord in between, but with working yarn on RH needle. Knit the first stitch from LH needle, drawing up yarn tightly so as not to create a hole at the join.



6 In effect, circular knitting is a subtle spiral, as there is a slight step between the last stitch of one round and the first stitch of the next. Barely noticeable with fine yarns and plain knitting or multicoloured yarns, this step can be more obvious with stripes. Referred to as a 'jog', there are several ways to minimise the visibility of this jog effect.



9 These two methods work best on deep stripes as the slipped stitch reduces the height of the work at the round-change, so pulling up the work. If colour changes are every one or two rounds or on large pieces of knitting, this pulling may be noticeable, in which case an alternative method may be preferable.



12 At the end of the round, slip marker to RH needle. Knit strand in old colour (A) together with new colour (B). Continue as normal. Repeat as required. This method works better with two similar colours and can be bulky with thick yarns, but is simple and neat. On large garments where shortening would be noticeable, this method is a good choice.

Hints and tips

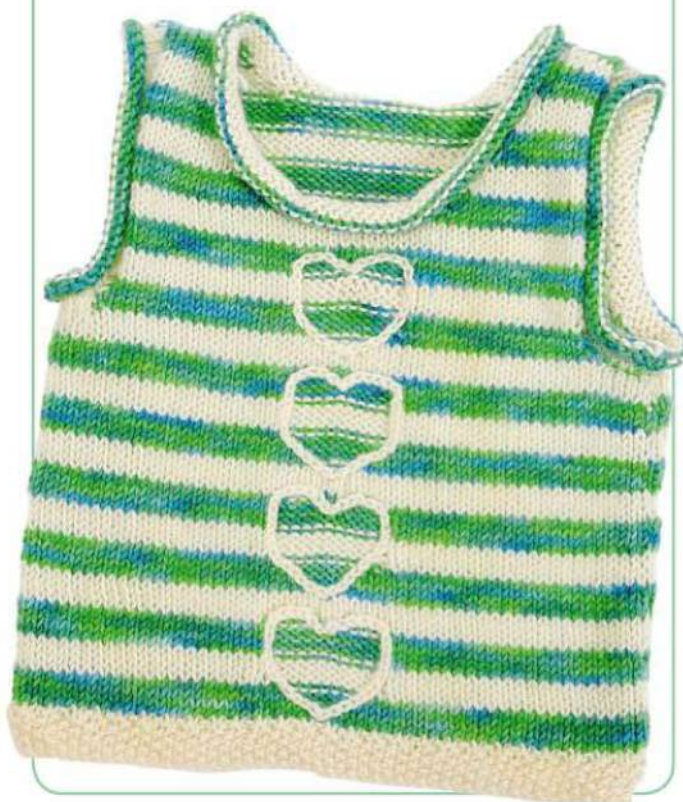
* To avoid a gap at the cast on edge, cast on an extra stitch and knit the first two stitches on LH needle together.

* Different yarns and patterns will affect the choice of method for ending and starting rounds when changing colours (or when working in patterns such as lace or cables) so it's a good idea to swatch several samples to see which works best. It is possible to use different methods in one garment, so if your garment is pulling, you could change at intervals to the two-strand method or knit the round as normal to lengthen the fabric at the changeover point.

* Careful blocking will even out some of the jog effect but, where possible, locate ends of rounds in the least noticeable area, for example, at the underarm sides of a garment or up the inside edge of a sock.

* Circular needles do vary. When you buy one, look for a flexible cord and smooth join between needle and cord. If choosing interchangeable needles, check how sturdy the join is. Ask to try a pair if possible.

The rounds start at the side of the top, so any slight jogging will be less visible.

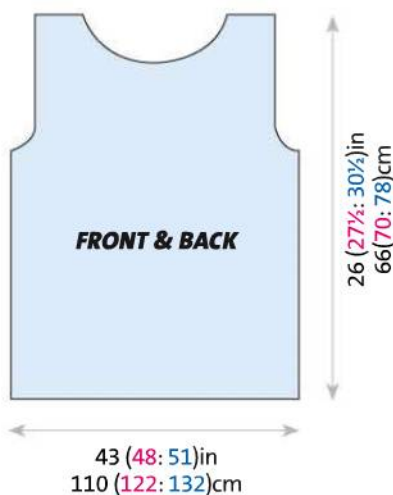




Pattern Info

Abbreviations

K	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
LH	left hand
P	purl
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together
psso	pass slipped stitch over
rem	remain/ing
rep	repeat
RH	right hand
RS	right side
sl	slip
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side



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this great offer.

→ Rep these two rows a further 2 (2: 2) times then first row 0 (0: 1) times.
[7 (10: 11) sts rem on each side of neck]

Cast off shoulder sts loosely.

FRONT

Transfer front sts from holder onto needle such that RS is facing. Keeping continuity of stripes and pattern band, rejoin yarn.

ARMHOLES

With RS facing and keeping continuity of stripes and pattern band, cast off 4 (4: 4) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Row 3 K1, sl 1, K1, psso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 4 Purl.

Pattern band note Once four pattern repeats have been completed, remove stitch markers and revert to working in plain stripes.

Continue working on these 45 (51: 56) sts in st st (starting with a K row) for a further 12 (12: 16) rows, ending on a P row.
[Armhole depth approx. 2 (2½: 2½)in, 5 (5.5: 6)cm]

SHAPE NECK

Both sides of the neck are worked at the same time.

Next row K18 (21:22) sts, slip next 9 (9: 12) sts onto a holder. With second ball of yarn, K rem 18 (21:22) sts.

Next row P to last 3 sts, p2tog, P1. On second half of neck, P1, p2tog, P to end.

Next row K to last 3 sts, sl 1, K1, psso, K1. On second half of neck, K1, k2tog, K to end.

Rep these two rows once, then first row one more time. [13 (16: 17) sts on each needle].

Next row Knit.

Next row P to last 3 sts, p2tog, P1. On second half of neck, P1, p2tog, P to end.

Rep these two rows twice more (three times in total). [7 (10: 13) sts rem on each needle].

Cast off shoulder sts loosely.

TO MAKE UP

The collar and armhole edgings are knitted in stocking stitch and are designed to roll over, allowing the purl side to show as the RS. With WS facing, sew shoulder seams. Turn work to RS facing. With RS facing, using 4mm circular needle and



yarn A, pick up and K 9 (9: 11) sts from RH back neck edge; 19 (19: 20) sts from back neck holder; 9 (9: 11) sts from LH back neck edge; 19 (21: 21) sts from LH front neck edge; 9 (9: 12) sts from front neck holder and 19 (21: 21) sts from RH front neck edge. [84 (88: 96) sts in total]

Knit 4 rows.
Change to B and K 2 rows.
Cast off loosely.

ARMHOLE EDGINGS

With RS facing, using 4mm circular needle and yarn A, pick up and K78 (82: 90) sts round armhole, beginning and ending at underarm for neatness.

AGES 2 AND 4 ONLY

Round 1 K10 (6), k2tog, (K1, k2tog) 19 (23) times, K9 (5). [59 (58) sts]

AGE 6 ONLY

Round 1 K6, k2tog, (K1, k2tog, k2tog) 15 times, K7. [49 sts].

ALL SIZES

Rounds 2-4 Knit.
Change to yarn B.
Rounds 5-6 Knit.
Cast off loosely.

EMBROIDERY

Using A, and following the chart, outline each heart in chain stitch.

FINISHING

Darn in any loose ends of yarn. Very lightly steam the work by holding a steam iron over the work but not touching it. Allow to dry completely.

Next issue we've got a darling cardigan to match this top – plus a lesson in the ancient skill of 'steeking'. Find out more in issue 67, May, on sale Thursday 22 April 2010.

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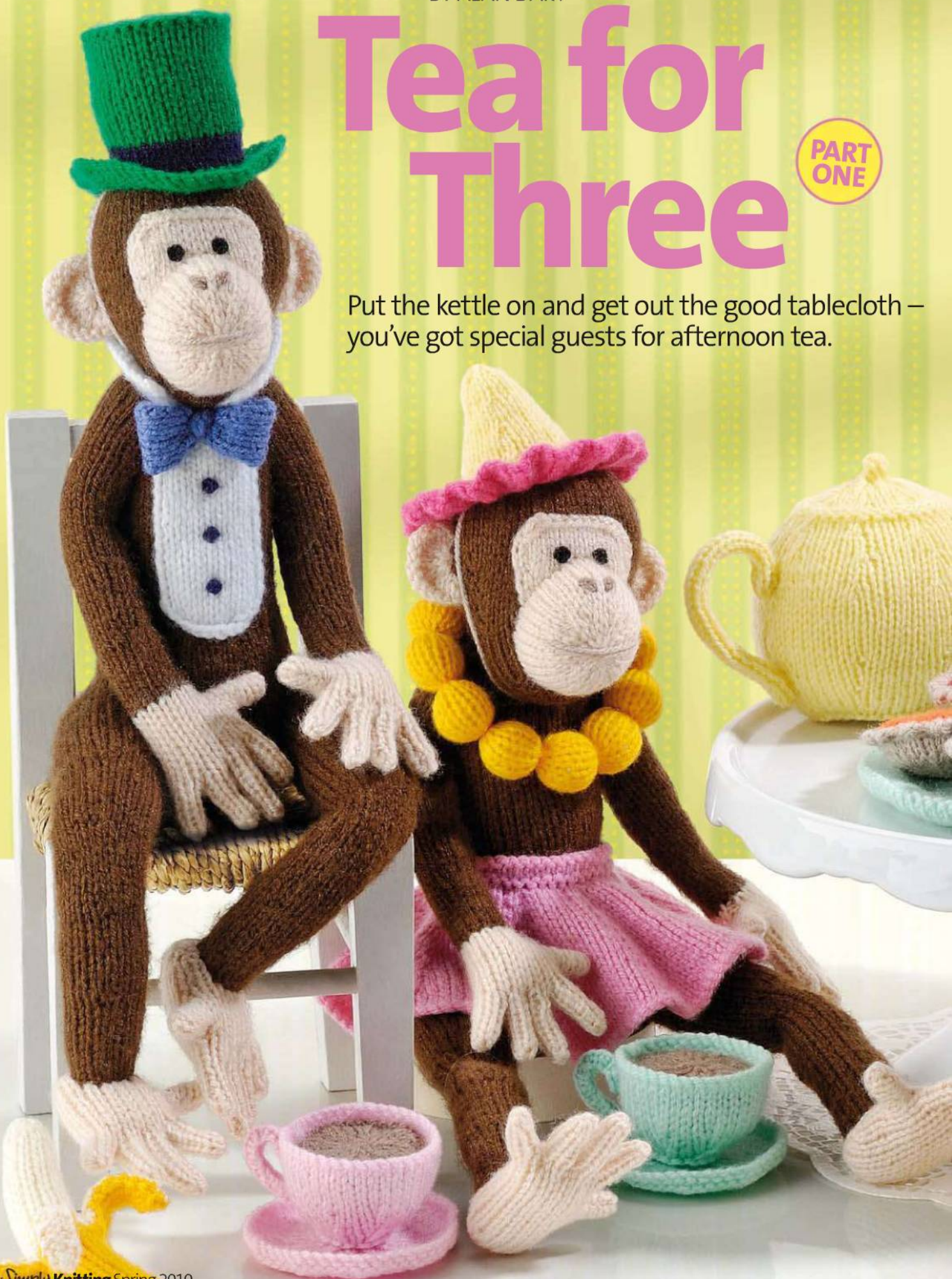
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BY ALAN DART

Tea for Three

PART ONE

Put the kettle on and get out the good tablecloth – you've got special guests for afternoon tea.



Back in the mid 20th century, one of the highlights of any visit to a zoo would be the chimps' tea party. Each afternoon the chimps would be led to a table to enjoy afternoon tea, watched by the zoo's visitors. While their table manners were nothing to write home about, no one could deny that chimps, like the rest of us, appreciate a good cuppa.

Toy treats

Alan Dart has designed this chimps' tea party for us, and he's taken great care to ensure that the tea items, as well as the chimps, are a good size for children to play with. Youngsters will

love sitting down with cups, saucers and a teapot just the right size for their small hands.

If you're planning an event for Marie Curie Cancer Care's Blooming Great Tea Party campaign (see page 58), the chimps make great raffle prizes or decorations. "Put little squares of Velcro on the hands and feet so the chimps can cling to shelf supports, bedposts, reading lamps," Alan suggests.

The tea party pattern is a long one, so we've split it into two parts: chimps this issue and tea things next issue (67, May, on sale Thursday 22 April 2010).

You will need issues 66 AND 67 in order to complete your tea party.





Pattern Info

You will need...

Hayfield, Bonus DK

Chocolate (927), 2 x 100g/280m balls
1 x 100g/280m ball of each: Flesh Tone (963), Pink (992), Sunflower (978), Emerald (916), White (961), Cupid (944), Primrose (957), Bright Orange (981), Signal Red (977), Bluebell (969), Purple (840), Neon (884) and Royal (979)
Oddments of black, oatmeal and walnut DK yarns

A pair of 3mm needles

125g of washable toy stuffing

150g of PVC beanbag granules

A scrap of muslin

White sewing thread

Clear adhesive

A scrap of stiff card

A pair of compasses

Hair spray

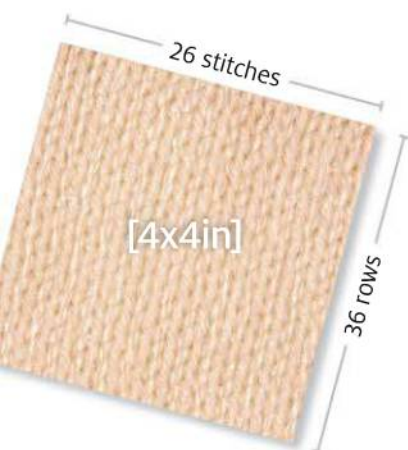
For where to buy, see page 96

Visit www.alandart.co.uk for more information on Alan's designs and to purchase patterns.

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension

26 sts and 36 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over stocking stitch using 3mm needles



Measurements

13in (33cm) tall without hat



Start knitting here

NOTE Use 3mm needles throughout, cast on by using the cable (two needle) method, and begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated. Instructions refer to making one chimp.

CHIMP

BODY MAKE 1 PIECE

Cast on 12 sts with Chocolate for base edge and st st 2 rows.

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [36 sts]

St st 3 rows.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [48 sts]

St st 21 rows.

SHAPE WAIST

Dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [36 sts]

St st 27 rows.

SHAPE TOP

1st dec row (K4, SKPO, K7, k2tog, K2) twice, K2.

[32 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K4, SKPO, K5, k2tog, K2) twice, K2.

[28 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K4, SKPO, K3, k2tog, K2) twice, K2.

[24 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K4, SKPO, K1, k2tog, K2) twice, K2.

[20 sts]

Next row Purl.

5th dec row (K4, sl 1, k2tog, PSSO, K2) twice, K2.

[16 sts]

Next row Purl.

Cast off for top edge.

HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 12 sts with Chocolate for base edge of chin and st st 2 rows.

1st inc row K1, (inc 1) four times, K2, (inc 1) four times, K1. [20 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K1, (inc 1, K1) four times, K2, (inc 1, K1) four times, K1. [28 sts]

St st 7 rows.

3rd inc row K6, (inc 1) twice, K12, (inc 1) twice, K6. [32 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th inc row K6, (inc 1, K1) twice, K12, (inc 1, K1) twice, K6. [36 sts]

Next row Purl.

5th inc row K7, (inc 1, K2) twice, K12, (inc 1, K2) twice, K5. [40 sts]

Next row Purl.

6th inc row K7, (inc 1, K3) twice, K12, (inc 1, K3)



twice, K5. [44 sts]

Next row Purl.

7th inc row K8, (inc 1, K4) twice, K12, (inc 1, K4) twice, K4. [48 sts]

St st 11 rows.

1st dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [36 sts]

St st 3 rows.

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [24 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K2tog) to end. [12 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

FACE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10 sts with Flesh Tone for base edge and st st 4 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows once more. [14 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows. [10 sts]

Cast off for top edge.

MUZZLE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 32 sts with Flesh Tone for outside edge and st st 8 rows.

1st dec row K1, (K1, k2tog) to last st, K1. [22 sts]



... but putting one in will help your chimp to sit up.

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row K1, (k2tog) to last st, K1. [12 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

EARS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 7 sts with Flesh Tone for back edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc row Inc into every st to end. [14 sts]
St st 3 rows.
K 2 rows.

Next row Purl.

Dec row (K2tog) to end. [7 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, for front edge.

ARMS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 6 sts with Chocolate for top edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 3 rows.

Repeat the last 4 rows two more times. [12 sts]

Cast on 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm. [18 sts]

St st 12 rows.

1st dec row K6, (k2tog, K4) twice. [16 sts]
St st 9 rows.

2nd dec row K5, (k2tog, K3) twice, K1. [14 sts]
St st 7 rows.

Change to Flesh Tone for hand and st st 2 rows.

Cast on 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows for thumb. [26 sts]

*St st 2 rows.

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows. [18 sts]
St st 2 rows.

INC FOR FINGERS

Next row K2, inc 1, (K1, inc 1) twice, K3, inc 1, turn and work on these 15 sts only.

WORK LITTLE FINGER

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only.

St st 5 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.

WORK RING FINGER

Next row With 9 sts on right hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K1, inc 1 from 7 sts on left hand needle. Turn and work on these 12 sts only.

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only. St st 7 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.

WORK MIDDLE FINGER

Next row With 6 sts on right hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K1, inc 1 from 5 sts on left hand needle. Turn and work on these 9 sts only.

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only. St st 8 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.

WORK INDEX FINGER

Next row With 3 sts on right hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K remaining 3 sts from left hand needle. [6 sts]

Next row P6, turn and work on these sts only. St st 8 rows.**

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join index finger seam and round thumb, stopping at wrist.

LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 16 sts with Chocolate for ankle edge and st st 10 rows.

knit tip

You'll find the chimps easier to make up if you label each piece for each chimp as you knit it.

HOW TO...

KFB

Alan always does his increases this way.



1

Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch to knit, as you would normally when knitting a stitch.



2

Knit the stitch but don't drop it from the left-hand needle.



3

Take the right-hand needle to the back of the knitting and insert the tip of the needle through the loop of the stitch on the left-hand needle.



4

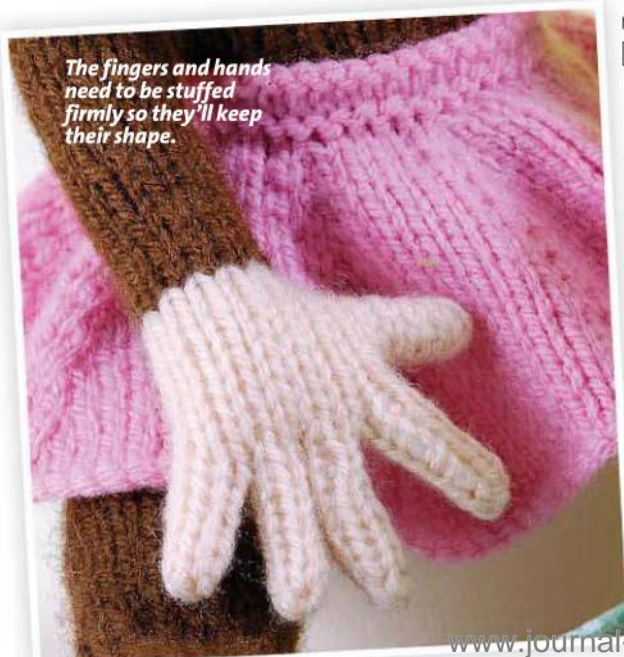
Knit this second stitch and keep it on the right-hand needle, dropping the stitch from the left-hand needle.



Pattern Info

Abbreviations

beg	beginning
dec	decrease (by working 2 stitches together)
inc	increase (by working into front and back of stitch)
K	knit
P	purl
PSSO	pass slipped stitch over
sl	slip
st st	stocking stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
SKPO	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over together
tog	together



The fingers and hands need to be stuffed firmly so they'll keep their shape.

Use the increase and decrease rows on the head as guides when you attach the face.



1st inc row K4, (inc 1, K5) twice. [18 sts]

St st 9 rows.

2nd inc row K4, (inc 1, K6) twice. [20 sts]

St st 9 rows.

3rd inc row K5, inc 1, K7, inc 1, K6. [22 sts]

St st 9 rows.

4th inc row K5, inc 1, K8, inc 1, K7. [24 sts]

St st 13 rows.

Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows for base edge of opening. [18 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Next row Purl.

Repeat the last 2 rows three more times. [10 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows. [6 sts]

Cast off for top edge of opening.

FEET (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 14 sts with Flesh Tone for back edge and st st 2 rows.

Inc row (Inc 1, K4, inc 1, K1) twice. [18 sts]

St st 5 rows.

Cast on 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows for big toe.

[26 sts]

Work toes as given for hand from * to **.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Unless otherwise specified, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one-stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method.

First make beanbag by sewing a line of large running stitches round edge of an 8in (20cm) diameter muslin circle. Draw up slightly and fill with 50g of granules, then gather tightly and fasten off securely. Should you prefer to omit the beanbag, simply fill entire body with toy stuffing. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge of body, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join body seam, stopping at waist shaping row. Insert beanbag into base of body, then continue to join body seam, stopping 1in (2.5cm) away from top edge. Stuff body firmly, then join remainder of seam. With body seam running down centre back, fold top edge flat and



Quick & Easy Knits

Here are **10 fabulous designs** you can create for family and friends – choose your favourite and get knitting!



Write in and tell us what you're knitting! Dear Debora, *Simply Knitting*, Future, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW or email: simplyknitting@futurenet.com

Cut along dotted line





Heirloom blanket

This stunning round blanket is knitted in two parts. This issue we've got the central piece, with the spiral centre, lace petals and bobbles, for you to knit.

You will need...

Patons, Wool Blend Aran
Cream (00002),
8 x 100g/185m balls
A 5mm circular needle
A set of 5mm dpns
A pair of 6mm needles

Measurements

Blanket diameter
58in (146cm)

Abbreviations

alt	alternate	tog	together
K	knit	tbl	through back
P	purl		of loop
rep	repeat	yf	yarn forward
st(s)	stitch(es)		

* Start knitting here

Cast on 8 sts over double pointed needles.
K 1 round, place stitch marker.

Round 2 *K1, yf; rep from * to end. [16 sts]

Round 3 and every foll alt round Knit.

Round 4 *K2, yf; rep from * to end. [24 sts]

Round 6 *K3, yf; rep from * to end. [32 sts]

Round 8 *K4, yf; rep from * to end. [40 sts]

Continue to increase this way to 224 sts. Change to circular needle when you have enough sts.

Next round Purl.

START PATTERN

Round 1 *K1, k4tog, (yf, K1) 5 times, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 2, 3 & 4 Knit.

Round 5 As round 1.

Round 6 (K1, yf) twice, K12; rep from * to end. [256 sts]

Rounds 7 & 8 Knit.

Round 9 *K1, k4tog, (yf, K1) 7 times, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end. [288 sts]

Rounds 10, 11 & 12 Knit.

Round 13 *K1, k4tog, (yf, K1) 9 times, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end. [320 sts]

Rounds 14, 15 & 16 Knit.

Round 17 *K1, k4tog, (yf, K1) 11 times, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end. [352 sts]

Rounds 18, 19 & 20 Knit.

Round 21 *K1, k4tog tbl, (yf, K1) twice, yf, K2, k2tog, yf, K1, yf, k2tog tbl, K2, (yf, K1) twice, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 22, 23 & 24 Knit.

Round 25 *K1, k4tog tbl, (yf, K1) 3 times, k2tog, yf, K3, yf, k2tog tbl, (K1, yf) 3 times, k4tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 26, 27 & 28 Knit.

Round 29 *K1, k4tog tbl, (yf, K1) twice, yf, k2tog, yf, K5, yf, k2tog tbl, (yf, K1) twice, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 30, 31 & 32 Knit.

Round 33 *K1, k4tog tbl, yf, K1, yf, k2tog, yf, K3, yf, K1, yf, K3, yf, k2tog tbl, yf, K1, yf, k4tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 34, 35 & 36 Knit.

Round 37 (Inc row) K1, k3tog tbl, yf, K2tog, yf, K4, (yf, K1) 3 times, yf, K4, yf, k2tog, yf, k3tog; rep from * to end. [384 sts]

Rounds 38, 39 & 40 Knit.

Round 41 *K1, k3tog, yf, K8, yf, K1, yf, K8, yf, k3tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 42, 43 & 44 Knit.

Round 45 K1, *yf, k3tog, yf, K21; rep from * to last 23 sts, yf, K3tog, yf, K20.

Rounds 46, 47 & 48 Knit.

Round 49 Purl. **Cast off.**

CENTRAL SPIRAL



PATTERN: AMANDA CRAWFORD





LACE & BUTTON
SCARF



Stash
Buster!



PETITE
CABLE BAG



DAISY
SOCKS

Cut along dotted line



For where to buy, see page 96



Cut along dotted line

Petite cable bag

You will need...

Stylecraft, Life DK
Denim (2322),
1 x 100g/298m ball
A pair of 4mm needles
A cable needle
Two snap fasteners

Tension

18 sts and 26 rows to
measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over st st
using 4mm needles

Measurements

7 x 5in (18 x 13cm)

Abbreviations

C4F	sl next 2 sts on to cable needle, leave at front of work, K2, K2 sts from cable needle
K	knit
P	purl
st st	stocking stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)

Start knitting here

BAG POUCH

Cast on 30 sts using 4mm needles.
Work 6 rows moss st.

START PATTERN

Rows 1 & 3 P4, K4, P2, K to end
of row.

Rows 2 & 4 P20, K2, P4, K4.

Row 5 P4, C4F, P2, K to end of row.

Row 6 P20, K2, P4, K4.

Continue in pattern until work measures 13in
(33.5cm), ending on a WS row.

FLAP

Continue with cable patt, but this time work 3 sts of
moss st at either side on every row. Work for 3in
(7.5cm). Continue with cable patt, but this time work
all other sts in moss st. Work 6 rows. **Cast off.**

STRAP

Cast on 10 sts using 4mm needles.
Work 6 rows st st. Work moss st for 48in (192cm).
Work 6 rows st st. **Cast off.**

MAKING UP

Gently press the bag piece. With RS facing, join
edges of bag, leaving the flap. Sew snap fasteners
onto bag body and corners of flap. Join the sides of
the strap, but only on the moss st part. You could
stitch a length of bias binding inside the handle to
prevent it stretching. Turn strap RS out. Attach st st
ends at the top of the side seams of the inside of the
bag.



PATTERN: LOUISE BUTT

Lace & button scarf

You will need...

Noro, Kureyon Sock Yarn
Pink/purple (S 240),
1 x 100g/420m ball
A pair of 4½mm needles
Three buttons

Tension

28 sts and 28 rows to
measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over stitch
pattern using 4½mm
needles

Abbreviations

K	knit
k2tog	knit 2 together
psso	pass slipped stitch over
rep	repeat
st(s)	stitch(es)
sl 1	slip 1 stitch
yo	yarn over

Start knitting here

Cast on 73 sts using 4½mm needles.
Knit 10 rows

Row 1 (RS) K1, *yo, sl 1, K1, psso, K1, k2tog, yo, K1;
rep from * to end.

Row 2 Purl.

Row 3 K2, *yo, sl 1, k2tog, psso, yo, K3; rep from * to
last 5 sts, yo, sl 1, k2tog, psso, yo, K2.

Row 4 Purl.

Repeat these 4 rows until the knitting measures
36½in (93cm).

Knit 4 rows.

Next row K10, k2tog, yo, K22, k2tog, yo, K22,
k2tog, yo, K to end.

Knit 5 more rows.

Cast off.

Attach three buttons
to the cast on end,
positioned to match
up with the holes
created by the three
yarn overs
in the garter stitch
before the cast off.



PATTERN: DEBORAH BRADLEY

Daisy socks

You will need...

Laughing Yaffle, Sock
Camellia, 1 x 100g hank
A set of 2½mm dpns

Tension

28 sts and 40 rows to
measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over st st
using 2½mm needles

Measurement

S M L - women's sock

Abbreviations

K	knit
P	purl
rep	repeat
rem	remaining stitch(es)
st(s)	stitch(es)
tog	together
skpo	slip stitch, K1, pass slipped stitch over slip stitch
sl	slip stitch
ssk	slip slip knit
yo2	yarn over twice

Start knitting here

LEG

Cast on 56 (64: 72) sts on 2½mm dpns, join into
the round.

Work a 2x2 rib for 1in (2.5cm).

Knit 3 rounds, then start **pattern 1**:

Round 1 *K2, k2tog, yo2, skpo, K2, rep from * to
end of round.

Round 2 *K3, P1, K4, rep to end of round.

Round 3 *(K2tog, yo2, skpo) twice, repeat to end
of round.

Round 4 *K1, P1, K3, P1, K2; repeat from * to end
of round.

Rounds 5-8 As rounds 1-4

Rounds 9-10 As rounds 1-2.

K 3 rounds

Next round Knit to last 4 sts. This is your 'fake'
end of round.

Starting with the last 4 sts of the previous round
work **Pattern 1** again. Work 10 rows st st.

SPLIT FOR HEEL

Knit 28 (32: 36) sts onto one needle and work
only on these sts - leave rem 28 (32: 36) sts on
another needle. Turn, sl 1 and purl to end of row.

PATTERN 2

Row 1 Sl 1, K5, K2tog, yo2, skpo, K8, K2tog, yo2,
skpo, K to end.

Row 2 Sl 1, P to end, knitting into second yo.

Row 3 Sl 1, K3 (k2tog, yo2, skpo) twice,



K2 (k2tog, yo2, skpo) twice, to end.

Row 4 Sl 1, P to end, knitting into second yo.

Rep rows 1-4 once more, then work rows 1-2
again.

Next row Sl 1, K to end of row.

Next row Sl 1, P to end of row.

Repeat last 2 rows 5 more times.

HEEL

Row 1 Sl 1, K17 (19: 21) sts, SSK, turn.

Row 2 Sl 1, P10 sts, p2tog, turn.

Row 3 Sl 1, K10 sts, SSK, turn.

Rep rows 2 and 3 until all sts have been worked
and 12 sts rem.

GUSSET

K first 6 sts onto a spare needle.

Needle 1 K6 sts, then pick up and K12 sts.

Needle 2 Add stitch marker for beginning of
round, K across all sts.

Needle 3 Pick up and K 12 sts, then K across the
6 sts on the spare needle.

SHAPE GUSSET

ROUND 1

Needle 1 K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Needle 2 Knit.

Needle 3 K1, ssk, K to end of needle.

ROUND 2

K all three needles.

Rep last 2 rounds until:

Needle 1 K14 (16: 18) sts rem.

Needle 2 K28 (32: 36) sts.

Needle 3 K14 (16: 18) sts rem.

Continue to knit rounds until length of foot less
1½in (4cm) has been worked.

Knit first 28 (32: 36) sts on to needle 1, knit next
14 (16: 18) sts onto needle 2 and knit the final
14 (16: 18) sts onto needle 3.

SHAPE TOE

ROUND 1

Needle 1 K1, ssk, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Needle 2 K1, ssk, K to end of needle.

Needle 3 K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

ROUND 2

Knit.

Rep last 2 rounds until 32 sts rem.

Rep round 1 until 24 sts rem

Place sts from needles 1 and 3 onto one needle.
With right side facing, graft the toe using
Kitchener stitch. Block socks to fully appreciate
the daisy motifs.

PATTERN: LOUISE BUTT



MAN-SIZE
MITTS



CROCHET
BABY BEANIE



MARY JANE
SLIPPERS



Cut along dotted line



For where to buy, see page 96



Cut along dotted line

Crochet baby beanie

You will need...

Sublime, Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK
1 x 50g/116m ball of each:
Yarn A Vanilla (03)
Yarn B Piglet (01)
A 4mm crochet hook
A covered button

Tension

18 sts and 16 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over htr using 4mm hook

Measurements

6months-1 year: 16in (40cm) circumference

Abbreviations

ch chain
dtr double treble
htr half treble
ss slip stitch

Start crocheting here

Foundation loop Ch 4 using a 4mm crochet hook and yarn A, ss into the 1st ch to join into a loop.

Round 1 Ch 2 (counts as 1 htr), 8 htr into the loop, ss into 2nd ch. [16 htr]

Round 2 Ch 2 (counts as 1 htr), * 1 htr into next st, 2 htr into the next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, 1 htr into each, ss into 2nd ch. [24 sts]

Round 3 Ch 2 (counts as 1 htr), * 1 htr into next 2 sts, 2 htr into the next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, 1 htr into each, ss into 2nd ch. [32 sts]

Round 4 Ch 2 (counts as 1 htr), * 1 htr into next 3 sts, 2 htr into the next st; rep from * to last 4 sts, 1 htr into each, ss into 2nd ch. [40 sts]

Cont to increase in this way until you have 64 sts.

Next round Ch 2, 1 htr into every st, ss into 2nd ch. Repeat this round a further 15 rounds, then change to the pink yarn and work 3 rounds.

Next round (This round is worked backwards) Ch 1, dc 1 back into last st just worked, * dc 1 back into the st on the right; rep to end of round, ss into the 1 ch, fasten off yarn.

FLOWER

Foundation loop Ch 4, ss into the 1st ch to join into a loop.

Round 1 *Ch 4, 3 dtr into the loop, ch 4, dc into the loop; rep from * 4 more times. [5 petals] **Fasten off.**

MAKING UP

Weave in all loose ends. Sew the flower in place with the covered button in the centre.

Man-size mitts

You will need...

King Cole, Baby Alpaca DK
Camel (500),
2 x 50g/100m balls
A pair of 3¼mm needles

Tension

24 sts and 32 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over st st using 3¼mm needles

Measurements

Palm circumference
7-9in (18-23cm)

Abbreviations

kfb knit into the front and back of st
pm place marker
sl 1 slip 1 st

Start knitting here

MITTENS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 62 sts using 3¼mm needles.

Rib row 1 Sl 1, *K2, P2; rep from * to last st, K1. Cont to work a 2x2 rib pattern as set for 2in (5.5cm).

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 Sl 1, *K2, P2; rep from * to last st, K1. Cont to work the hand of the mitten in this pattern.

Row 3 (Thumb shaping) Sl 1, K28, pm, kfb, kfb, pm, K to end of row.

Row 4 Patt to marker, P to next marker, patt to end of row.

Row 5 Sl 1, K28, pm, kfb, K2, kfb, pm, K to end of row.

Row 6 Patt to marker, P to next marker, patt to end of row.

Cont to increase for the thumb as set until you have 88 sts.

Next row Sl 1, K to marker, K26, cast on 1 st, turn.

Next row K27, cast on 1 st. [28 sts]

Working on these 28 sts, st st for 10 rows and cast off.

With RS facing, rejoin the yarn and cast on 2 sts to the right hand needle, knit the sts on the left-hand needle. [62 sts]

Cont with the stitch pattern for 24 rows.

Work 10 rows in 2x2 rib as for the cuff.

MAKING UP.

Sew up the thumb and the side seam. Weave in all loose ends

Mary Jane slippers

You will need...

Sirdar, Big Softie Cupcake (334),
2 x 50g/45m balls
A pair of 9mm needles
Two big buttons

Tension

10 sts and 17 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over garter st using 9mm needles

Measurements

Child's UK size 3-5

Abbreviations

kfb knit into the front and back of st
k2tog knit 2 stitches together
st(s) stitch(es)
sl 1 slip 1 st
RS right side

Start knitting here

MARY JANE SLIPPER

Cast on 32 sts using 9mm needles.

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 K1, kfb, K13, kfb, kfb, K13, kfb, K1. [36 sts]

Row 3 Knit.

Row 4 K1, kfb, K14, kfb, K2, kfb, K14, kfb, K1. [40 sts]

Row 5 Knit.

Row 6 K1, kfb, K115, kfb, K4, kfb, K15, kfb, K1. [44 sts]

Knit 6 rows without shaping.

Row 13 K23, k2tog, K1, turn.

Row 14 Sl 1, K6, k2tog, K1, turn.

Repeat these 2 rows until you have 35 sts in total.

Next row K6, k2tog, knit to end of row. [34 sts]

LEFT SLIPPER

Next row Cast off 24 sts, K2, cast off remaining 7 sts. [3 sts]

Rejoin the yarn, work 13 rows in garter stitch.



knit tip
Add non-slip soles to the base of the slipper for safety.

Next row K1, yf, k2tog. Knit 3 more rows. **Cast off.**

RIGHT SLIPPER

Next row Cast off 7 sts, K2, cast off remaining 24 sts. [3 sts]

Rejoin the yarn, work 13 rows in garter stitch.

Next row K1, yf, k2tog. Knit 3 more rows. **Cast off.**

TO MAKE UP

With RS facing and matching, yarn sew up the back and sole seams. Attach the button using a match thread.





Cut along dotted line



For where to buy, see page 96



Cut along dotted line

Flower pot cover

You will need...

Debbie Bliss, Como
Lilac (09),
1 x 50g/42m ball
A pair of 10mm needles

Tension

13 sts and 19 rows to
measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over stitch
pattern using 10mm
needles

Measurements

To fit a plant pot
14 x 4½in (36 x 12cm)

Abbreviations

T2L knit into the front of
the 2nd st, leave on the
left-hand needle, then
knit the 1st stitch, take
both sts off the
left-hand needle
T2R knit into the back
of the 2nd st, and leave it
on left-hand needle,
then K the 1st stitch,
take both sts off the
left-hand needle

✿ Start knitting here

Cast on 40 sts using 10mm
needles.

Row 1 K1, * P1, K2; rep from
* to last st, K1.

Row 2 K1, * P2, K1; rep from
* to last st, K1.

Row 3 K1, * P1, T2L; rep
from * to last st, K1.

Row 4 K1, * P2, K1; rep from
* to last st, K1.

Row 5 K1, * P1, T2R; rep from * to last st, K1.

Repeat rows 2-5 until your knitting measures 4½in
(12cm).

Cast off in pattern.

TO MAKE UP

Sew up the side seam. Weave in any loose ends.



PATTERN: KIRSTIE MCLEOD

Plant label

You will need...

DK yarn from your stash:
Lilac, pink, cream, green
A pair of 4mm needles
A stitch holder
A darning needle

Tension

20 sts and 36 rows to
measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over st st
using 4mm needles

Measurements

10 x 3in (25.5 x 8cm)

Abbreviations

K2tog knit 2
stitches
together
yo yarn over

✿ Start knitting here

Note: leave long ends when joining in colours/
cutting yarn, as you will use these to tie your band
around your pot.

Cast on using lilac and the following picot cast-on:
* cast on 5 sts using the two-needle method, cast
off 2 sts, transfer st on right-hand needle to
left-hand needle; rep from * until knitting is
required length, cast on 1.

Row 1 (RS) (K1, K2tog, yo) to last st, K1.

Row 2 Knit.

Row 3 (RS) Using pink (K2tog, yo) to last 1 or 2 sts,
K1 or 2. (The number of sts left at the end will vary
depending on the length of your band.)

Row 4 Using lilac, Purl.

Using cream, work 7 rows sts.

Transfer band to a stitch holder.

Work rows 1-3 again, casting on exactly the same
number of sts as you originally did, then graft this
knitting and the band from the stitch holder
together using lilac yarn and Kitchener stitch. Do
not pull the lilac yarn too tight, as you need the
grafting to be visible.

Using green, embroider the name of the plant on
the band.



PATTERN: MIRIAM McDONALD

Floral door stop

You will need...

Rico Design, Organic
Pure Chunky
Grey (005),
2 x 50g/80m balls
A pair of 7mm needles
A set of 7mm dpns
Toy stuffing
Ceramic beads
Felt flowers

Tension

14 sts and 19 rows to
measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over st st
using 7mm needles

Measurements

8 x 6½in (20.5 x 17cm)
when stuffed.

✿ Start knitting here

DOORSTOP SIDES (MAKE 4)

Cast on 4 sts using 7mm needles.

Row 1 Purl.

Row 2 Inc 1 st at both ends. [6 sts]

Row 3 Purl.

Row 4 Inc 1 st at both ends. [8 sts]

Row 5 Purl.

Row 6 Inc 1 st at both ends. [10 sts]

Continue to increase as set until you have
42 sts.

Cast off.

HANDLE

Cast on 5 sts using 5½mm
dpns and work an i-cord
to measure 8in
(20.5cm).

TO MAKE UP

When all 4 triangles
are complete, with RS
facing sew together to
form a pyramid shape,
leaving one edge open.
Attach the handle to the top of the
doorstop.
Turn the right way out.
Using a grey thread sew the felted flowers
to the sides of the doorstop.

knit tip

You could also add
buttons and beads to
the doorstop for
decoration.



Stuff the corner with
stuffing, add the ceramic
beads (we used baking beans
purchased from Lakeland, but
you could also use marbles or
the glass beads sold for holding
flowers in vases) and then fill with more
stuffing. Slip stitch the open edge closed.



PATTERN: KIRSTIE MCLEOD



sew across.

Starting at gathered top edge of head, join seam, stopping 1in (2.5cm) away from base edge. Stuff firmly, then join remainder of seam. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off.

With head seam running down centre back, pin head to front of body, placing top edge of body in line with 3rd increase row on head. Sew top edge of body to back of head, then sew head to front of body and remove pins.

Pin face piece to head, placing top edge 5 knitted rows down from first decrease row at top of head, and with base edge in line with 3rd increase row on head. Sew in place by working backstitch over every stitch or row round edge of face piece and remove pins.

Starting at gathered point, join muzzle seam and stuff firmly. Use pins to mark 5 knitted rows down from top edge of face, and first increase row at base of head. With seam running along underside, pin muzzle in position between these two marked points, sew in place, then remove pins.

Treating purl side as right side, work a gathering thread through every stitch along back edge of each ear, draw up tightly and fasten off. Bring both gathered points of ear together, the back and edge of the ear being purl and the front of the ear being knit, then position and sew vertically to sides of head, placing 2 knitted rows down from top of face.

Use tweezers to stuff each finger, thumb and hand firmly, then join remaining arm seam, stopping at underarm. Stuff arms lightly, then position and sew top of arms to sides of body. Join each leg seam, sewing from ankle edge up to base edge of opening, then stuff leg lightly, leaving a space in centre unstuffed so knee will bend. Join final toe seam on each foot, and then sew round big toe. Use tweezers to stuff toes and foot firmly, join remainder of seam, then fold back edge in half and sew across. Treating each leg seam as inside leg, and placing this just behind big toe, position and sew ankle edge of leg to top of foot. Now pin top opening of each leg to side of body, so that chimp is in a sitting position, and adjust if necessary, then sew in place and remove pins.

When working features, tie off ends of yarn securely at top of head, then sew ends back into head, leaving only small knots showing. These knots will eventually be hidden by hat. Mark eye positions with pins, spacing 4 knitted stitches apart and placing one knitted row above muzzle. Take a length of black yarn and draw out a single strand. Use the remaining 2 strands to embroider a circle of 5 tiny chain stitches for eye. Again using 2 strands, embroider two nostrils on muzzle with

walnut yarn, working a diagonal lazy daisy stitch for each. To embroider mouth, take a length of oatmeal yarn and embroider two 2in (5cm) long, horizontal, straight stitches across centre of muzzle, placing directly next to each other to form lips.

CHERYL SKIRT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 150 sts with Pink for hem edge and st st 2 rows.

1st dec row (K7, k2tog, K6) to end. [140 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K6, k2tog, K6) to end. [130 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row (K6, k2tog, K5) to end. [120 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K5, k2tog, K5) to end. [110 sts]

Next row Purl.

5th dec row (K5, k2tog, K4) to end. [100 sts]

Next row Purl.

6th dec row (K4, k2tog, K4) to end. [90 sts]

Next row Purl.

7th dec row (K4, k2tog, K3) to end. [80 sts]

Next row Purl.

8th dec row (K3, k2tog, K3) to end. [70 sts]

Next row Purl.

9th dec row (K3, k2tog, K2) to end. [60 sts]

Next row Purl.

10th dec row (K2, k2tog, K2) to end. [50 sts]

K 2 rows.

Cast off knitwise for waist edge.

HAT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 98 sts with Cupid for brim edge.

1st frill row K2, (P3, K3) to end.

2nd frill row (P3, K3) to last 2 sts, P2.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more.

1st dec row K1, (SKPO, P1, k2tog, K1) to last st, K1. [66 sts]

2nd dec row (P2tog) to end. [33 sts]

Change to Primrose and st st 4 rows, beg with a K row.

3rd dec row K3, (k2tog, K3) to end. [27 sts]

St st 3 rows.

4th dec row K3, (k2tog, K2) to end. [21 sts]

St st 3 rows.

5th dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to last st, K1. [15 sts]

St st 3 rows.

6th dec row K1, (K2 tog) to end. [8 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

NECKLACE BEADS (MAKE 11 PIECES)

Cast on 12 sts with Sunflower for base edge and st st 7 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

HOW TO...

SKPO

Some patterns call for you to decrease using this method.



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if you were to knit it, but instead of winding the yarn around the needle, just slip the stitch off and on to the right-hand needle.



2 Knit the next stitch as normal.



3 Now insert the left-hand needle into the slipped stitch on the right-hand needle and lift it over the knitted stitch.



4 Continue knitting until the end of the row, and your slipped stitch should look like this.



“Use a scrap of matching yarn to stuff tiny pieces”

Alan Dart,
Toy and knitwear designer



Sew in the ends of each stripe behind stitches of the same colour, red behind red and blue behind blue.



Pin the leg to the foot, getting the position how you like it, before sewing both pieces together.

Use matching yarn to sew the hat to the head so the stitches won't be seen.



TO MAKE UP

First take a length of oatmeal yarn for hat elastic, wrap round head, under chin and tie in a secure knot at top of head, trimming away excess. Starting at gathered tip, join hat seam. Stuff firmly, then, with seam at centre back, pin hat on top of head, covering knotted yarn ends. Sew in place by working backstitch over last knitted row of brim, then remove pins.

Following instructions on ball band, press skirt piece lightly on wrong side. Starting at hem edge, join seam, stopping 1in (2.5cm) away from waist edge. Fit skirt on chimp and join remainder of seam. With seam at centre back, pin skirt in position and sew in place by working backstitch over every stitch along first garter stitch row of waistband, then remove pins.

To make necklace, join seam on each bead, starting at gathered top edge. Use tweezers to stuff firmly, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge, draw up tightly and fasten off. Use a length of Sunflower yarn to thread beads together, then wrap necklace round neck and tie ends of yarn together securely at back, using yarn ends to sew a couple of beads to back of body with a few stitches.

CHAS BOWLER HAT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 55 sts with Royal for brim edge. Change to Bright Orange and st st 2 rows, beg with a P row.

1st dec row (P1, P2tog, P2) to end. [44 sts]

Next row Knit.

2nd dec row (P1, P2tog, P1) to end. [33 sts]

Change to Royal and st st 4 rows, beg with a K row, for hatband.

Change to Bright Orange and st st 8 rows.

3rd dec row (K1, K2tog) to end. [22 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K2tog) to end. [11 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

SHIRT COLLAR (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 36 sts with White for base edge and st st 2 rows.

1st dec row (K4, k2tog, K3) to end. [32 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K3, k2tog, K3) to end. [28 sts]

Cast off knitwise for neck edge.

TIE TAIL (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10 sts with Bluebell for top edge and continue in pattern of alternating 4 row st st stripes in Bluebell and Signal Red, beg with 4 rows Bluebell.

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

St st 4 rows.

Repeat the last 5 rows five more times. [22 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next and every following row until 2 sts remain.

Cast off.

TIE KNOT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 7 sts with Signal Red for centre back edge and st st 2 rows.

Change to Bluebell and st st 4 rows.

Change to Signal Red and st st 4 rows.

Change to Bluebell and st st 4 rows.

Change to Signal Red and st st 2 rows.

Cast off for centre back edge.

TO MAKE UP

Make hat elastic as given for Cheryl. Starting at gathered top point, join hat seam, then stuff firmly. Coat with hair spray and mould into shape, then leave on a flat surface to set. With seam at centre back, pin hat on top of head, covering knotted yarn ends, and sew in place by working backstitch over last knitted row of brim, then remove pins.

Following instructions on ball band, press tie and collar pieces lightly on wrong side. Starting at top edge, join tie tail seam, stopping directly before first decrease row at base. With this seam running down centre back, press tie lightly. Now join cast-on and cast-off edges of tie knot piece to form a tube, then, matching seams, fit tie tail into base of knot and sew in place. Stuff knot lightly, then fold top edge flat and sew across. Position and sew tie knot to centre front of neck. Wrap shirt collar round neck and hold ends of neck edge in place with a couple of stitches each side of tie knot.

CHESTER TOP HAT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 55 sts with Emerald for brim edge and st st 2 rows, beg with a P row.

1st dec row (P1, p2tog, P2) to end. [44 sts]

Next row Knit.

2nd dec row (P1, p2tog, P1) to end. [33 sts].

Change to Purple and st st 4 rows, beg with a K row, for hatband.

Change to Emerald and st st 13 rows.

P 3 rows for fold line.

3rd dec row (K2, k2tog) to last st, K1. [25 sts]

Next row Purl.

4th dec row (K1, k2tog) to last st, K1. [17 sts]

Next row Purl.

5th dec row (K2tog) to last st, K1. [9 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

SHIRT FRONT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10 sts with White for neck edge and st st

24 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows [6 sts].

Cast off for base edge.

SHIRT COLLAR (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 40 sts with White for top edge and K 1 row.

1st dec row (P4, p2tog, P4) to end. [36 sts]

Next row Knit.

2nd dec row (P3, P2tog, P4) to end. [32 sts]

Change to Neon for tie neckband and st st 2 rows, beg with a K row.

Cast off knitwise.

BOW TIE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts with Neon for back edge and st st 14 rows.

Dec row (K2tog) to end. [3 sts]

St st 7 rows.

Inc row Inc into every st to end. [6 sts]

St st 13 rows.

Cast off for back edge.

TO MAKE UP

Make hat elastic as given for Cheryl. Starting at gathered top point, join hat seam. Use compasses to draw a 1½in (4.5cm) diameter circle on card, cut out, then glue to wrong side of hat crown, matching edge of circle to knitted fold line. Stuff firmly, coat with hair spray and mould into shape, then leave on a flat surface to set. With seam at centre back, pin hat on top of head, covering knotted yarn ends, and sew in place by working backstitch over last knitted row of brim, then remove pins. Following instructions on ball band, press tie, collar and shirt pieces lightly on wrong side. Pin shirt front to body and sew in place by working backstitch over every stitch or row round edge, then remove pins. Mark positions of three buttons down centre of shirt front, spacing 7 knitted rows apart. Take a length of Purple yarn, draw out a single strand, and use the remaining 2 strands to embroider a circle of 5 tiny chain stitches for each button. Wrap collar round neck and join ends of tie neckband together at centre front with a couple of stitches.

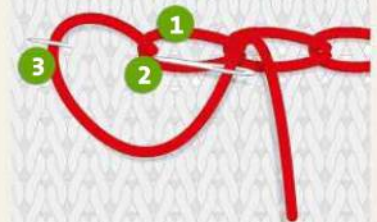
Tie a knot in centre of bow tie piece, then gather cast-on and cast-off edges and sew to either side of knot to form a bow. Position and sew to centre front of neckband. ●

It's not a party without tea and cake. Next issue (67, May, on sale Thursday 22 April 2010) we've got the cups, saucers, teapot and tasty treats for you to knit.

HOW TO... EMBROIDER

Chain stitch is used for details on the chimps' faces.

Chain stitch



A series of loops, chain stitch is used for the outlines and mouths of the gingerbread men. Come out of the fabric at 1, where you want to begin, and leaving a loop, go back down again in the same hole at 2. Bring the needle out again at 3, keeping the thread under the needle. Repeat. Make a small stitch over the last loop to fix it.



Put the hat on the chimp so the seam is at the back, where it'll be less visible.

Have a Blooming Great Tea Party



Get the kettle on and help raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care – it's really easy to throw a tea party, and lots of fun!

The Blooming Great Tea Party was launched back in 2008 and has been a resounding success so far, with over 100,000 people raising over £700,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. This year, the charity is aiming to

raise £1 million. We want to make sure they get there, but we need your help.

We'd like you to host a tea party and invite all your friends to help you raise money for this great cause. Tea party season runs from 12 June to 12 July 2010 but we don't mind if yours is early or late. As the weather should be nice by then, we're planning on taking our tea party outside... and of course we'll be taking our knitting along.

Why not ask your knitting group if they fancy having a cuppa and a slice of cake for a good cause? You can also get your needles or hooks moving to create quick and easy tea cosies

to raffle or sell: another great way to raise funds.

Whatever you do, please write in and tell us about it.

Why you're needed

Many of us will be touched by cancer at some point. Marie Curie Cancer Care employ over 2,700 nurses and healthcare professionals who provide free care to over 29,000 terminally ill cancer patients every year. Having a Marie Curie Nurse enables these patients to spend their final days or hours in their own home or at one of the charity's hospices, surrounded by their loved ones. With your support, they can expand this



network and provide more free care for those in need.

Get involved

Whether you're looking for ideas or are ready to register your tea party, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty for lots of helpful information or to register your tea party online. You can also request a tea party pack by calling 08700 340040.



It's all in a good cause, you know!

KNITTED TEA COSY

This pattern will fit tall or round pots alike – adjust it to suit or design your own pattern!

SIDES (WORK 2 ALIKE)

Cast on 55 sts using 4mm needles. Work 10 rows of moss st as follows:

Row 1 (RS) K1, *P1, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 2 As row 1. Beg with a K row, cont in st st throughout until the work measures 3¼in (8cm) from beg, ending on a WS row.

START SHAPING

Row 1 K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K to last 4 sts, k2tog, K2. [53 sts]

Work 5 rows straight. Repeat row 1. [51 sts]

Work 5 rows straight.

Next row K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K20, sl 1,

k2tog, psso, K20, k2tog, K2. [47 sts] Work 5 rows straight.

Next row K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K18, sl 1, k2tog, psso, K18, k2tog, K2. [43 sts]

**** Next row (WS)** P2, p2tog, P to last 4 sts, p2tog tbl, P2. [41 sts]

Next row K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K to last 4 sts, k2tog, K2.

Rep last 2 dec rows once more, then work WS dec row once more. [33 sts]**

Next row K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K11, sl 1, k2tog, psso, K11, k2tog, K2. [29 sts] Rep dec rows from ** to ** until you have 19 sts.

Next row K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K4, sl 1, k2tog, psso, K4, k2tog, K2. [15 sts]

Next row P2, p2tog, P to last 4 sts, p2tog tbl, P2. [13 sts]

Cast off loosely.

TO MAKE UP

With RS tog sew 2¼in (6cm) from base, leave a gap of 4¼in (12cm) (handle side) then join the seam to the top. On the other side, sew 2in (5cm) from the base, leave a gap of 3¼in (9cm) then cont to sew to the top. Turn to the RS and press lightly.



Marie Curie Cancer Care





CROCHET TEA COSY

SIDES (MAKE 2)

With yarn A and a 4mm hook make 29 ch, plus 2 t-ch

Row 1 Work 29 dc, 2 t-ch.

Rep row 1 twice more, then change to yarn B for 2 rows, then change to yarn C for 2 rows.

Work a further 18 rows of dc in yarn A.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

SIDES

With wrong sides facing sew along

the selvages from the top for 2½in (7cm).

Side 1 Sew from the base up to the top of the Yarn B stripe.

Side 2 Sew from the base up to the top of the Yarn A stripe.

Work a round of dc around each of the side openings.

TOP FRILL

Using yarn C, attach yarn, work 2 ch, join the top seams for 2½in (7cm) with a row of dc. Without fastening off, join the last 2½in (7cm) of the top seams.

Work 2 t-ch.

Next row Work 3dc into each st.

Fasten off.

Using yarn C, attach yarn, work 2 ch, join the top seams with a row of dc to meet the middle.

Work 2 t-ch.

Next row Work 3dc into each st, at end of row ss into the middle st of the previous joining row.

Fasten off.

Rep for final open side.

Darn in all ends.



FAB PRIZES FOR CREATIVE COSIES

Design a tea cosy and you could win fabulous prizes! We've teamed up with Marie Curie Cancer Care and some of the biggest names in knitting to set you a challenge. We've amassed goodies from Cath Kidston Ltd, Artesano, Creative Yarns, KnitPro, Rowan, Thomas B Ramsden and Sirdar, and we're going to give the lot to six really creative stitchers.

There will be one winner and two runners-up in each of two categories: 'Tea Party Cosy',

which should be tea party themed, and 'Creative Cosy' where anything goes! You can use one of our two basic tea cosy patterns as a base.

The competition will be judged by Marie Curie Cancer Care, Simply Knitting and top fabric designer Cath Kidston. Entries must be in by 31 August 2010 and will go on display at the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, in October 2010.



Some of the prizes supplied by the sponsors.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. All designs must be original and must not infringe copyright. 2. Entries must be knitted or crocheted pieces, although using other craft methods to embellish, for example embroidery, is permitted. 3. You may enter once or more than once but all entries must be accompanied by an entry form. Photocopied forms will be accepted. 4. Entries cannot be returned. 5. By entering into the competition you: a. Grant Marie Curie Cancer Care and Future Publishing Limited the right to use your personal information to send you information about their respective products and services which may be of interest to you (see form for opt-out). b. Accept that all entries will become property of Marie Curie Cancer Care and grant them and Future Publishing Limited the right free of charge to publish photographs of your entry and that your entry may be sold or used for other fundraising activities in the future to benefit Marie Curie Cancer Care. 6. The judging panel's decision is final. 7. Winners will be announced on the Marie Curie Cancer Care website, in *Simply Knitting* and contacted in person. 8. Prizes may be provided by a third party sponsor of the competition. Marie Curie Cancer Care and *Simply Knitting* reserve the right in their sole discretion to substitute any prize with a prize of comparable value. 9. The CLOSING DATE for the competition is 31 August 2010. Any entries received after this date will not be entered into the competition. All entries MUST be submitted with an entry form as given here, downloaded from the website, or if you do not have access to the internet you can call 0800 716 146 and request one to be sent to you. The promoter of the competition is Marie Curie Trading Limited registered in England and Wales (company number 2292795) whose registered office is at 89 Abney Embankment, London, SE1 7TP.

HOW TO ENTER!

To enter your tea cosy design in our competition, please fill in the form below and send it – along with your tea cosy – to FREEPOST RSCK-ECXB-LBSS Marie Curie Cancer Care Knitting Competition, PO Box 621, Wetherby Rd, York YO26 0EX by 31 August 2010. It's so easy – you don't even need a stamp!

TEA COSY CATEGORY:

☐ Tea Party Cosy

☐ Creative Cosy

Please note: tea cosies cannot be returned.

First Name

Surname

Address

..... Postcode

Tel Daytime Evening

Email

Would you like to receive information about any of the following from Marie Curie Cancer Care?

- ☐ Marie Curie Cancer Care Mail order shopping catalogue
- ☐ Shine On, the charity's quarterly magazine
- ☐ E-Zine (email newsletter)

Would you like more information from the charity about:

- ☐ Leaving a gift in memory of someone
- ☐ Making a donation
- ☐ Becoming a volunteer
- ☐ Leaving a gift in your will
- ☐ Local and regional events
- ☐ Blooming Great Tea Party

By providing your contact details, you are agreeing that we may use them to send you information about our fundraising, campaigning and other activities. By entering your email address you are agreeing to us using those details to send you information about our fundraising, campaigning and other activities. Should you wish at any point to discuss how we communicate with you, please contact the Supporter Services Team on freephone 0800 716 146 or write to Marie Curie Cancer Care, PO Box 232, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 7SB. Should you wish for your details NOT to be passed onto a third party for fundraising purposes please tick the box ☐

By entering into the competition you grant Marie Curie Cancer Care and Future Publishing Limited the right to use your personal information to send you information about their respective products and services which may be of interest to you. Please tick the box if you do NOT wish to be contacted ☐

Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity Reg. No 207994 (England & Wales), SC038731 (Scotland)





BY JANE ASHER

Tea with Dad

Multi-talented actress Jane Asher has added tea cosy design to a long list of skills, which include cake decorating and novel writing. She came up with this fun design to help you raise

money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. We'd love it if you knit your own Dad to keep the teapot cosy at your own Blooming Great Tea Party—send us a photo if you do!



Jane Asher designed this cosy in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MATERIALS

DK yarn blue, white, navy and wine.
For the face, DK yarn in your dad's shade.
For the hair, Fur in your dad's shade.
A pair of 4mm needles.
Light polyester toy stuffing.

For the main body, knit the sides of the basic pattern using blue DK yarn.

COLLAR

Cast on 27 sts using 4mm needles and white.

Row 1 (RS) K2, P1, K to last 3 sts, P1, K2.

Row 2 and every foll alt row P2, K1, P to last 3 sts K1, P2.

Row 3 K2, P1, K4, m1, K1, m1, (K5, m1, K1, m1) x 2, K4, P1, K2. [33 sts]

Row 5 K2, P1, (K6, m1, K1, m1) x 3, K6, P1, K2. [39 sts]

Row 7 K2, P1, K7 (m1, K1, m1, K8) x 2, m1, K1, m1, K7, P1, K2. [45 sts]

Row 9 K2, P1, (K9, m1, K1, m1) x 3, K9, P1, K2. [51 sts]

Row 11 K2, P1, K10, (m1, K1, m1, K11) x 2, m1, K1, m1, K10, P1, K2. [57 sts]

Row 13 K2, P1, (K12, m1, K1, m1) x 3, K12, P1, K2. [63 sts]

Row 14 K all sts. This will

form the edge of the hem.

Row 15 knit.

Cast off purlwise.

Turn hem to WS and catch stitch in place.

HEAD (WORKED IN 1 PIECE)

Cast on 10sts using 4mm needles and flesh colour.

Beg with a knit row, work 4 rows st.

SHAPE CHIN

1st inc row (K2, m1) x 4, K2. [14 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K2, (m1, K1, m1, K2) x 4. [22 sts]

Work 11 rows straight.

SHAPE TOP

1st dec row (K2, sl 1, K1, psso) x 5, K2. [17 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row K2, sl 1, K1, psso, K to last 4 sts, k2tog, K2. [15 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd dec row K1 sl 1, K1, psso, K3, sl 1, k2tog, psso, K3, k2tog, K1. [11 sts]

Work 3 rows straight.

1st inc row (K2, m1, K1, m1) x 3, K2. [17 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd inc row K8, m1, K1, m1, K8. [19 sts]

Next row Purl.

3rd inc row K8, m1, K3, m1, K8. [21 sts]

Work 11 rows straight.

SHAPE HEAD BASE

1st dec row (k2, sl 1, k1, psso) x 5, K1. [16 sts]

Next row Purl.

2nd dec row (K2, sl 1, K1, psso) x 4. [12 sts]

3rd dec row (P1, p2tog) x 4. [8 sts]

Work 4 rows straight.

Cast off.

EARS (WORK 2 ALIKE)

Cast on 5 sts using 4mm needles and flesh colour.

Row 1 (RS) K5.

Row 2 P2tog, P1, p2tog.

Cast off.

TO MAKE HEAD

With RS facing fold the head in half and sew up the sides from the base to the top of the first side. Carefully run a line of running st across the top to the other side, pull up a little and secure, sew down to the base of the second side. Turn to the right side. Stuff tightly using toy stuffing, shaping the head as you do this. Work a row of running st around the base of the head and pull up tightly. Sew the ears to the side of the head.

HAIR

Cast on 7 sts using 4mm needles and hair colour.

Working in garter st (knit all rows), work 2 rows.

Row 3 Cast on 2 sts, K to end. [9 sts]

Row 4 K1, m1, K to end of row. [10 sts]

Work straight until work measures 4in (10cm) from beg or when slightly stretched goes around the head from ear to ear.

Next row Sl 1, k1, psso, K to end.

Next row K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next row, K to end.

Cast off.

Attach hair to the head, pulling it around the ears.

TIE

Use 2 colours for the tie.

Cast on 3 sts using col A.

Row 1 (RS) K3.

Row 2

Row 3 Join col B, K into front and back of 1st st, with col A K1 K into front of next st, and with col B K into the back of the st. [5 sts]

Row 4 With col P P1, m1, with col A, P1, with col B P1, with col B m1, with col A P1. [7 sts]

Row 5 With col B K into front and back of 1st st, K2 A, K2 B, K1 A, m1 A, K1 B. [9 sts]

Cont to work in diagonal 2 st stripe patt, inc 1 st at each end of row and working the new sts into the pattern until there are 17 sts. Work 6 rows straight. Dec 1 st at each end of the next and every foll 4th row until 7 sts rem. Work 1 row straight, then cast off.

TO MAKE UP

MAIN BODY

With RS tog sew 2¼in (6cm) from base, leave a gap of 4¼in (12cm) (handle side) then join the seam to the top. On the other side, sew 2in (5cm) from the base, leave a gap of 3¼in (9cm) then cont to sew to the top. Turn to the RS and press lightly. Attach the head by pushing the neck edge through the top of the tea cosy and slip st in place.

COLLAR

Sew the collar to the main body with the tie in place. To keep the collar flat, slip st in place.

FACE

Embroider the face on to the front of the head as shown in picture.

On the back of the tea cosy, Swiss darn "DAD'S TEA" using dark colour from the tie.



Knit your own dad!

BY BIGGAN DUPS

Sunny Citrus

Ideal first
Fair Isle
project

Knit an outfit with real zest – this lime green skirt and top has cute tangy orange and lemon details.





Pattern Info

You will need...

Biggan Design DK

A pair of 4mm needles

A 3mm circular needle (60cm length)

A 4mm circular needle (60cm length)

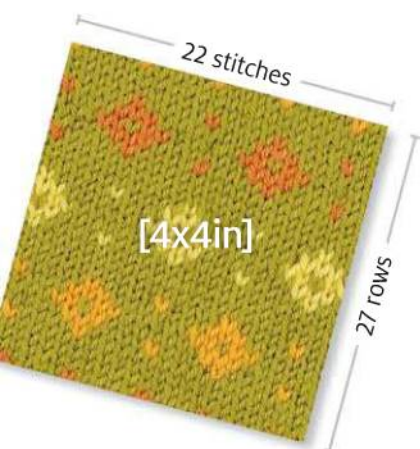
A 4mm circular needle (80cm length)

For where to buy, see page 96

Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:

22 sts and 27 rows to measure 4x4in (10x10cm) over stocking stitch using 4mm needles



Sizing colour key

So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

8 10 12 14 16 18

SIZING GUIDE

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18
TO FIT BUST	in	32	34	36	38	40	42
	cm	81	86	92	96	101	106

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

BUST	in	32	34	36	38	40	42
	cm	81	86	92	96	101	106
BACK LENGTH FROM SHOULDERS	in	23	23	23½	23½	24½	24½
	cm	58	58	60	60	62	62
HIPS	in	32-34	34-36	36-38	38-40	40-42	42-44
	cm	82-88	88-92	92-96	96-102	102-107	107-113

YARN

BIGGAN DESIGN DK 50g/105m

TOP

Yarn MC Golden Green(465)	4	4	4	5	5	5
Yarn CC1 Pumpkin (310)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yarn CC2 Saffron (330)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yarn CC3 Yellow (380)	1	1	1	1	1	1

SKIRT

Yarn MC Golden Green(465)	7	8	8	9	9	10
Yarn CC1 Pumpkin (310)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yarn CC2 Saffron (330)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yarn CC3 Yellow (380)	1	1	1	1	1	1

Put some zing in your wardrobe! The fresh citrus hues of this skirt and tank top are perfect for spring. If you've never tried Fair Isle before, this set will also refresh your knitting, as this is the ideal project to teach you the technique of stranded knitting.

Of course, you don't have to wear these pieces as a suit: the skirt looks great with a simple T-shirt or blouse, and the top will pair up with trousers and skirts, although we like it best with a casual pair of jeans. The neckline is quite deep, so you may not want to wear it on its own, although the yarn used, Biggan Design First Cross Merino DK, is soft enough to wear next to the skin.



The deep, ribbed hem ensures the tank top is snug, although you could reduce the number of rows for a shorter top.

Start knitting here

TANK TOP FRONT & BACK (KNITTED IN ONE PIECE)

Cast on 150 (160: 170: 180: 190: 200) sts with yarn MC on 4mm needle (to make the edge more elastic) and then work sts over onto 3mm circular needle with 1 row single rib.

Close the loop to start knitting in the round, which means that the beg and end of row is where first and last sts meet (and where the piece of yarn left from casting on will be hanging down to mark the spot).

Make sure that all sts are hanging down in the

same direction, so edge is not twisted.

Work in single rib until knitting meas 4½in (12cm). Change to 4mm circular needle and st st.

Note St st is KNIT sts only on circular needle.

On first round of st st inc 20 sts evenly over row, so there are 170 (180: 190: 200: 210: 220) sts on circular needle.

Work 3 rows MC before starting with pattern from chart. Work Rows 1-24, then repeat from Row 9 to Row 24, keeping the colours as set (for tank top only). Use photo for reference.

Follow chart up to armhole.

When knitting measures 14½ (14½: 14½: 14½: 14½)in, 36 (36: 37: 37: 38: 38)cm, divide work



HOW TO...

ADD A NEW BALL
MID-ROW

A quick and neat way to add a new ball of yarn to your knitting.



- 1** Hold the new ball at the back of your work and insert your needle ready to work the next stitch.



- 2** Wind the new ball around the right-hand needle and work the stitch.



- 3** As you knit, twist the tail end of the new ball as you go across the row to weave it in.

A decorative seam finishes the shoulders, although you can sew them up in your usual way if you prefer.



knit tip

Copy the chart and mark it off as you work, to help you keep the repeat pattern correct.

Knit a pattern swatch before you start either garment so you can check your tension in the colourwork areas.

for armholes into one back and one front part with equal amount of sts in each, to be knitted separately.

BACK

Put first 85 (90: 95: 100: 105: 110) sts onto 4mm straight needles, cont with st st.

NOTE St st is 1 K row, 1 P row alternately on straight needles, and Fair Isle pattern.

Cast off 4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2 (5, 5, 3, 3, 2, 2: 6, 6, 4, 4, 2, 2: 7, 7, 4, 4, 2, 2: 7, 7, 4, 4, 2, 2: 9, 9, 4, 4, 2, 2) sts at beg of first 6 rows for armhole.

[67 (70: 71: 74: 79: 80) sts]

Then dec 1 by knitting 2 sts tog one st in from armhole at beg of next 6 rows.

[61 (64: 65: 68: 73: 74) sts]

When armhole measures 7¼ (7½: 8¼: 8¼:

8¼: 8¼)in, 20 (20: 21: 21: 22: 22)cm, work 11 (11: 11: 11: 13: 13) sts, then cast off remaining sts of row until 11 (11: 11: 11: 13: 13) sts are left, which are knitted. Work left and right sides separately.

LEFT SIDE

Dec 1 at neckline every other row twice.

When armhole measures 8¼ (8¼: 9: 9: 9¼: 9¼)in, 22 (22: 23: 23: 24: 24)cm, cast off.

RIGHT SIDE

Work as Left side, reversing shaping.

FRONT
DEEP NECKLINE

Put remaining 85 (90: 95: 100: 105: 110) sts onto 4mm straight needles.

Cast off for armhole and neckline as follows:

Row 1 (WS) Cast off first 4 (5: 6: 7: 7: 9) sts, P to end of row.

Row 2 (RS) Cast off first 4 (5: 6: 7: 7: 9) sts, work 22 (22: 23: 23: 25: 25) sts, cast off middle 33 (36: 37: 40: 41: 42) sts, work 22 (22: 23: 23: 25: 25) sts.

Work left and right sides separately.

LEFT SIDE

Row 3 (WS) Cast off 3 (3: 4: 4: 4: 4) for armhole, P to end of row.

Row 4 (RS) Cast off first 2 (2: 2: 2: 2: 2) sts for neckline, K until end of row.

Row 5 (WS) Dec 1 at beg of row, P to end of row.

Row 6 (RS) Dec 1 at beg of row, K to end of row.

Row 7-10 Rep rows 5 and 6, so at the end of row 10, [9 (9: 9: 9: 11: 11) sts] remain.

Cont with pattern from chart, (one set of Fair Isle diamonds) up the middle of Left side. It may not coincide exactly with pattern in bodice, but this does



Pattern Info

Abbreviations

alt	alternately
beg	beginning
cont	continue
CC	contrast colour
dec	decrease (knit 2 sts tog)
inc	increase (knit twice in same sts)
K	knit
MC	main colour
moss st	moss stitch
P	purl
rep	repeat
rib	
(single)	rib stitch (K1, P1 alt)
RS	right side
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
tog	together
WS	wrong side

Use a firm cast off for the neckline and armholes: it will keep them neat, and you can easily get your limbs through.

not matter as pattern is too busy for it to show. When armhole measures same as Back cast off.

RIGHT SIDE

Work as Left side, reversing shaping.

SHOULDERS

Steam (DON'T PRESS) lightly with iron around armhole and neck to flatten the edges. (Pin edges of armhole and neck alternately onto ironing board before steaming if you find this easier). Using yarn, sew shoulder seams together from RS, in the back of loops of cast off sts with an overcast stitch (similar to hemming stitch). This makes a decorative and smooth seam.

ROUND NECKLINE

NOTE When picking up sts around each side of neckline and around armhole, pick up approx *1 st in every row 5 times, skip 1 row, rep from*. This should give you an even distribution of sts around neck and armhole.

With MC and 3mm circular needle, starting from RS and front left shoulder, pick up around

neck as follows:
54 (54: 57: 57: 60: 60) sts along left front neckline;
33 (36: 37: 40:

41: 42) cast off sts along front neck; 54 (54: 57: 57: 60: 60) sts along right front neckline; 51 (54: 55: 58: 59: 60) sts around Back neck.

[192 (198: 206: 212: 220: 222) sts in total]

Work 3 rows MC, 2 rows CC3, 3 rows MC in a firm single rib.

Cast off firmly in rib.

ARMHOLE

With MC and 3mm circular needle, starting from RS at the middle at bottom of armhole, pick up as follows: 9 (10:12:13:13:15) cast off sts; 51 (51: 54: 54: 57: 57) sts along one side of armhole up to shoulder seam; 51 (51: 54: 54: 57: 57) sts along other side of armhole from shoulder seam down; 9 (10:12:13:13:15) cast off sts.

[120 (122: 132: 134: 140: 144) sts in total]

Work 3 rows MC, 2 rows CC3, 3 rows MC in a firm single rib.

Cast off firmly in rib.

TO MAKE UP

Fasten off all loose ends.

SKIRT

NOTE Skirt is knitted from waist down. This makes it easy to get the length right if you wish to knit it longer or shorter than is indicated in the pattern.

Cast on 132 (144: 156: 168: 180: 192) sts, with 4mm circular needle (to make edge more elastic), and then work sts over onto 3mm circular needle with 1 row single rib.

Close the loop to start knitting in the round, which means that the beg and end of row is

The yarn comes in 64 colours, so you can choose all sorts of colourful combinations.

The ribbing on the waistband is stretchy, giving a perfect fit.



where first and last sts meet (and where the piece of yarn left from casting on will be hanging down to mark the spot). Make sure that all sts are hanging down in the same direction, so edge is not twisted.

Work 1x1 rib until work measures 1½in (4cm). Change to 4mm circular needle and work st st.

NOTE St st is KNIT sts only on circular needle.

After 8 rows st st inc 2 sts 4 times evenly over row as follows, starting from beg of row:

Inc 1, K2, inc 1, K29 (32: 35: 38: 41: 44), inc 1, K2, inc 1, K29 (32: 35: 38: 41: 44), inc 1, K2, inc 1, K29 (32: 35: 38: 41: 44), inc 1, K2, inc 1, K29 (32: 35: 38: 41: 44).

This set of incs is rep every 8th row 7 more times, then every 12th row 3 times and lastly every 14th row until moss st at bottom of skirt.

On the second 12th row of inc, make four more inc in between the existing ones (16 sts in all over row).

Make sure that each new set of incs are made in the stitch columns from previous row of incs, so incs stay directly underneath each other.

See that you have 2 more sts in each of the four larger panels of skirt, and later on eight panels, after each row of incs.

When sts start to get crowded on needle, change to 4mm circular needle (80 cm) if you like.

NOTE Here you need to check how long you want the skirt to be to fit your own measurements. Remember that the Fair Isle stripe will measure another 3¼in (9cm) and moss st hem 1½in (4cm), so add 5¼in (13cm) in all to the length you want the skirt to be.

When skirt measures 15¼-19½in (40-50cm), or desired length, start working the Fair Isle as shown on chart.

If you are not already working on it, change to the (80cm) long circular needle. The longer needle makes it easier to work the Fair Isle pattern.

When Fair Isle stripe is finished, inc 1 at beg of next row, so you have an uneven number of sts and work 1½in (4cm) moss st.

Cast off loosely, so hemline doesn't pucker.

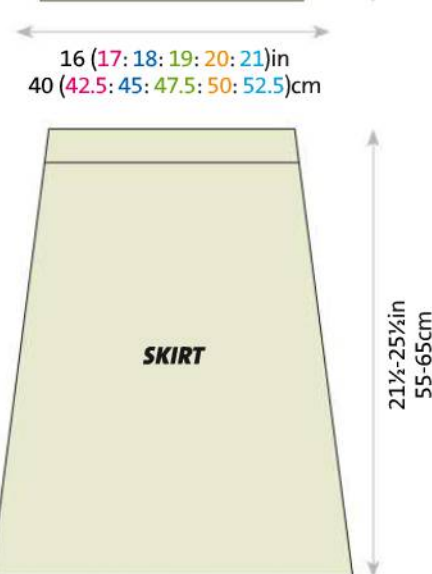
TO MAKE UP

Fasten off all loose ends.

Steam lightly over skirt with iron. (DON'T PRESS, as this will flatten the garment.)

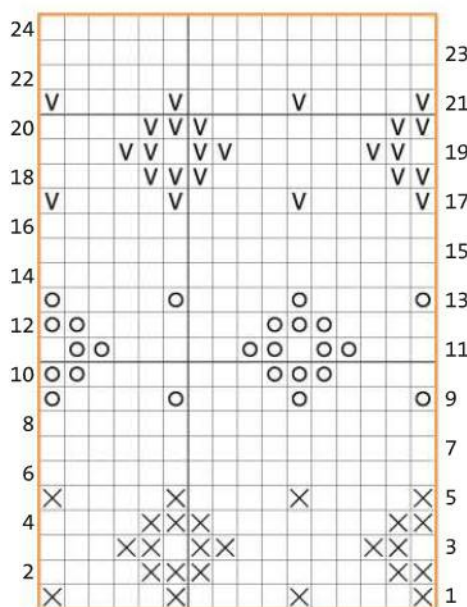
Using a 3mm crochet hook, crochet a cord of chain stitch about 1 metre long and thread through skirt between rib and st st at waist.

Next issue, look out for a bright batwing jumper in Artesano Hummingbird. May, issue 67, is on sale Thursday 22 April 2010.



KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CC2 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CC1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CC3 |



Start from here

HOW TO...

PICK UP STITCHES ON A CAST-OFF EDGE

You'll use this technique when you knit the neck band.



1 With the right side facing you, hold your piece of knitting in your left hand. Insert the point of the needle through the first loop of the cast off stitch, wrap the yarn around the needle and pull the yarn through, just like a knit stitch.



2 Pick up the number of stitches you need (usually one stitch for each cast on stitch). Now turn the knitting and continue with the pattern.

Reader offer!

Save 10% off
Biggan Design DK
Turn to page 66 for details of
this great money-saving offer.

Reader offers

Knit all these patterns for less!



Page
35

Round Robin

Knit this adorable tank top for less

DT Craft and Design are reducing the cost of the yarns for this project by 90p per ball, to £4 for the undyed and £7 for the coloured – that's saving over 10% off the cost of the dyed yarn, and a whopping 18% off the plain price. Visit www.dtcrafts.co.uk or call 0161 718 3818 and quote *Simply Knitting*.



Page
20

Cherry Blossom

Save 10% off Rowan Pima Cotton

Knit this stunning jumper for less with Cucumberpatch. Simply visit www.cucumberpatch.co.uk or call 01782 862332 and quote *Simply Knitting*.



Page
30

A Touch of Lace

Save 10% off Debbie Bliss Cashmerino DK

Save on this luxurious yarn with Loop. Simply visit www.loopknitting.com or call 020 7288 1160 and quote *Simply Knitting*.



Page
27

Infinitely Stylish

Save 12% off Rowan Fine Milk Cotton

Online retailer Serenity Knitting is offering *Simply Knitting* readers a 12% discount on the yarn for this lovely scarf. Visit www.serenityknitting.co.uk and quote order code SKSK1.



Page
61

Sunny Citrus

Save 10% off Biggan Design First Merino Cross DK

Woolaballoo are offering 10% off this super-soft pure wool. Visit www.woolaballoo.com or call 0191 580 0103 and quote *Simply Knitting*.

The closing date for these reader offers is **22 April 2010***, so order your yarn now!

*Any exceptions to this will be included on individual offers.

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The Knitted Gingerbread House

...in Thailand

From Bideford to Bangkok, Alison Murray and the Gingerbread House have been working to help children.

On a sunny day in June 2009 Alison Murray got a phone call from Thailand. Angela Stafford, who works at the Bangkok National Hospital, had seen the Knitted Gingerbread House online and wanted to bring both Alison and the house to Thailand to support a campaign called 'Let's knit for the needy'. The BNH was appealing for knitted squares to be sewn into blankets for children from mountain villages who study and live at Umphangwitthayakom School.

"I said yes but didn't believe it would happen," Alison told us. However, on 12 August she delivered the Gingerbread House to shipping agents Schenkers, who had agreed to ship it to Bangkok at no cost, and she and her uncle John followed in September. Alison recorded her time in Bangkok for us. This issue, she reveals her first busy week.

Sunday 13 September

After a 12-hour flight we arrived in hot, humid Bangkok. Angela met us – it was great to meet her face to face after only being in touch by email.



Monday 14

Our hotel, the Centara Grand, is connected to the Central World Shopping, the location for the press launch of 'Let's knit for the needy'. The upmarket shopping centre is like a city in its own right: there are 500 shops and 90 restaurants.

We took a taxi to the BNH and met Angela. I was introduced to many of the hospital staff including Dr Linda, the director of the BNH. In the community relations and PR departments there was yarn everywhere – just like home! Soon John and I were helping by sewing squares and waistcoats for the band to wear the next day.

We left at 6pm to try to get some rest. At 10:30, we walked through a maze of car parks to get back into Central World. We found pieces of the house being brought into the mall. I was so relieved! I had been worrying that we might have lost bits in its long journey but it all arrived in perfect condition.

The BNH team were fantastic in helping us to put it all together. At 3:30am it was up



By the evening, the house had been on two TV channels.

and finished. Everyone was so excited to see it.

Tuesday 15

The Gingerbread House was screened off from public gaze and the press conference area looked fantastic with pillars made from knitted squares.

The conference started at two. As I waited on the next level up with the BNH mascot doll, I could see a couple of hundred people below, some already knitting.

Dr Linda and Angela gave their speeches and the audience watched two clips: one showing people from policemen to soldiers knitting for the project and one about the school where the blankets were going to.

The band started playing 'Knitting all over the world' to the tune of Status Quo's 'Rocking All



Even the hospital's mascots picked up their needles.

Over The World' and the mascot and I made our entrance.

I was introduced as a famous guest and TV presenter Andrew Biggs asked me about the Gingerbread House. I thanked our sponsors and the hospital, and told everyone that I hoped the house would inspire people in Thailand to knit squares, as the house was created the same way and in the UK raised money for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

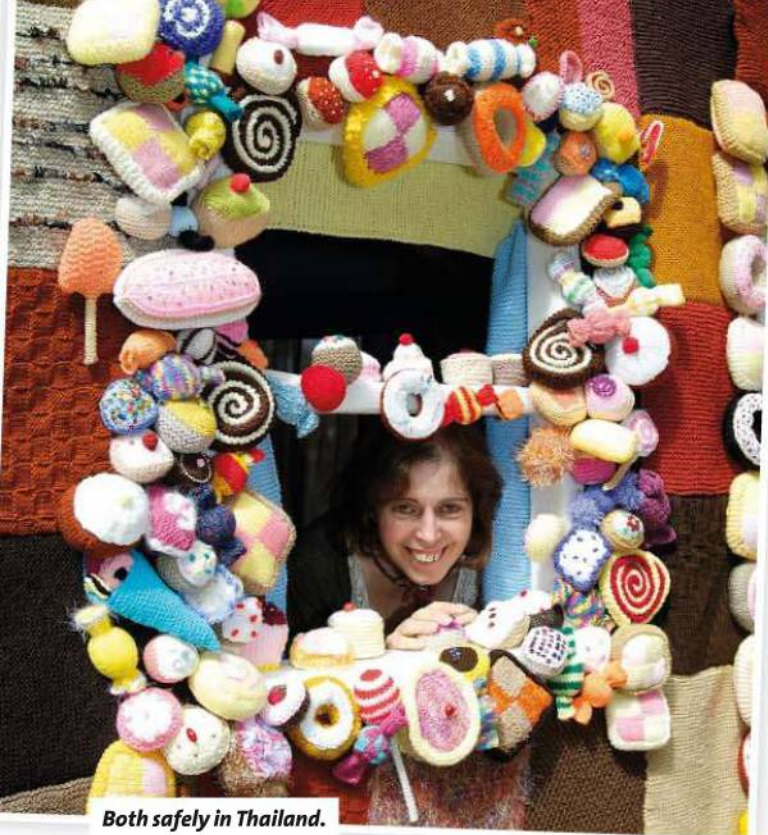
The house was then unveiled. Photographers and TV companies took photos of us on



The house was put up inside a giant shopping centre.



The campaign launch was a big success.



Both safely in Thailand.

stage with different groups giving in squares that they had made. We moved to the house, where I gave tours to all the VIPs.

It was an incredible day. Angela and the hospital were delighted that it gone so well, and Angela told me that it had already been on two TV channels.

Wednesday 16

Opening my door, I found a newspaper had been hung on it. The Gingerbread House was on the front page of the Bangkok Post!

I helped at a knitting workshop, which was manned by Khun Ruk from Pinn, the shop sponsoring the project with yarn and needles, and BNH staff.

I started to teach knitting. Quite a few people arrived having seen the house on TV the night before. I taught a mum and her daughters to finger knit. We made bracelets and belts with their knitting and then moved on to needles, mum learning as well.

Many people come on holiday to Bangkok and Thailand so it was very like knitting in Atlantic Village shopping centre in Bideford, meeting holidaymakers as well as locals.

Many people were being photographed in front of the

Gingerbread House and taking photos of every detail.

I went up to Pinn and all the girls wanted a group photo with me. I'm not used to all this fame! The shop had sofas and lovely displays in their windows. I bought some wool and decided to knit them a gateau for their window. We had a laugh comparing English and Thai ways of knitting.



Thursday 17

Slept better, after four days of little sleep with jet lag and house building. We went down to the

knitting workshop and a few people were learning to knit with BNH girls and the Pinn staff.

Two representatives from the Banyan Tree Hotel came along and I gave them a tour of the house. The hotel had provided an English tea for the press launch. They loved the house and said

that the staff at the hotel were already knitting for the project. We knitted until 8pm and then went back to the hotel to try to catch up with some sleep.

Friday 18

A really busy day at the workshop – the Gingerbread House had been on television again.

Later we went to the market. It was extremely hot after being in an air-conditioned mall, about 35°C. We took photos and I bought a beautiful basket which I was told took a week to make.

In the afternoon we had a visit from a large group of school children. They stayed for a couple of hours trying everything. At one point I was finger knitting as they were knitting it up on the giant needles at the other end.

Saturday 19

The centre court where we had our press launch was now the Thai Supermodel contest and around the corner was a cartoon and fancy dress fair for high school students. They were dressed up as robots, soldiers, goths, vampires and Japanese angels – many were characters from manga magazines. They were milling around and taking each other's photos. We asked some of them if they would like to use the house as a backdrop. The angels came round first and soon others followed – the models also came for the chance to have a different photo.

As it was Saturday it was a very busy day. I taught many little ones to knit. Angela had come to help for the day and was able to tell more people about the project.



We offered the house as a backdrop for students at the fancy dress fair.

Sunday 20

After an early breakfast we took a taxi to the Banyan Tree Hotel. BNH were supporting a charity called The Caring Heart for AIDS Foundation by providing a paramedic team for their eighth vertical marathon. This involves contestants running up 61 floors to the roof. The quickest time was just 6 minutes 16 seconds!

We met Angela on the roof. It was stiflingly hot – my camera was misting up in the heat. The BNH mascot dolls were dancing. They must have been very hot inside their costumes.

We went back to our hotel to pack and visited the knitting workshop as it was the last day. It was quite busy with lots of families looking at the house.

After a short rest in the hotel we went back to the shopping centre. Our amazing team of

Dismantled, and ready to go to the hospital.



helpers from the BNH was already there and we dismantled the house. It was then taken outside and loaded onto an open truck; it was packed very tightly but all higgly-piggly.

On arrival at the hospital everyone joined in to help unload. We filled the reception area with pieces of the house and it began to take shape again. We've never taken it down and put it up straight away before, but by 4am we were finished.

Alison and the house spent a further two weeks in Thailand and met a Princess – in issue 67, on sale Thursday 22 April 2010, read Part Two of the story.



Rachael Matthews

Cast Off catch-up

Rachael's decided that drinks containing artificial colours and flavours are going on her body, not in it...

I'm proud to have been a teenager through the Grunge years, the late '80s and early '90s. Our style was a mixture of hippie and punk, tie-dyed skinny jeans and oversized knitted jumpers with big boots. In 1993 Kurt Cobain dyed his hair red and it wasn't until years later I learned he had dyed it with Kool-Aid, which can also be used for dyeing yarn.

Kool beginnings

Kool-Aid wasn't originally intended for dyeing. Edwin Perkins, an American with a sweet tooth, was pottering in his mother's kitchen in about 1927, when he managed to remove the liquid from a concentrated fruit drink called 'Fruit Smack.' The remaining powder could be packaged in envelopes and was branded Kool-Aid. During the Depression, Perkins cut the price in half and entrepreneurs sprung up all over America selling Kool-Aid. The drink has since become an American cult classic.

Another American classic is *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* by Tom Wolfe, a book about Ken Kesey and his band of Merry Pranksters. A copy fell in my lap when I was 17. I found it quite boring, but it is the essential book on hippies. The Pranksters drove across America in a psychedelic painted bus called 'Furthur'. They swilled big jugs of 'electric' Kool-Aid,



Inspired by hippies, Rachael's cooking up the Kool-Aid.



laced with psychedelic drugs, in an attempt to reach

personal and collective revelations. The plan was to film the experience and make a fortune, but they were all off their heads and the project was arrested. They would have been better off with some hyperbolic crochet, but I've always appreciated their love of colour and quest for freedom, and I hoped to bring a bit of hippie colour to things when I used my Kool-Aid to dye yarn.

Fruit and fibre

Dyeing luminous wool needs potent acid dyes, salt, rubber gloves and good ventilation. The process is too messy for your mother's kitchen, and not good for the environment. Using Kool-Aid to colour yarn is a much safer option. Reverting to my teenage look, designing a new multicoloured jumper, I purchased some fruity flavours. Kool-Aid is impossible to buy

in British shops; you have to order it on the internet.

To dye a pale skein, put the Kool-Aid in a pan with enough water to cover the yarn, and place over heat. Wet the yarn, and place in the dye bath. Add more Kool-Aid for a brighter colour. As the liquid and yarn heats up you will notice a gorgeous smell of fruity, hot wool. All the flavours I tried smelled good, except for grape, which I found quite revolting. Once the wool has taken the colour, you just have to rinse with it warm soapy water.

I recommend this process as a demonstration to young people that artificial flavours and colourings are much better utilised for dyeing yarn, than the inside of our bodies. The hippie dream may have failed but nothing can stop us living in a glorious psychedelic whirlwind of wool. 🌀

Try it for yourself: DT Craft & Design (0161 718 3818; www.dtcrafts.co.uk) sells both individual sachets of Kool-Aid and Kool-Aid dyeing kits.





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Sirdar

Snowball

Ball weight 200g

Ball length 40m

Yarn content 100% polyester

Knits as super-chunky

RRP £10.04

Rec needle size 8mm

Giant pom-poms and a long gap between them gives this yarn an unusual texture and a loose, open feeling with a lovely drape.

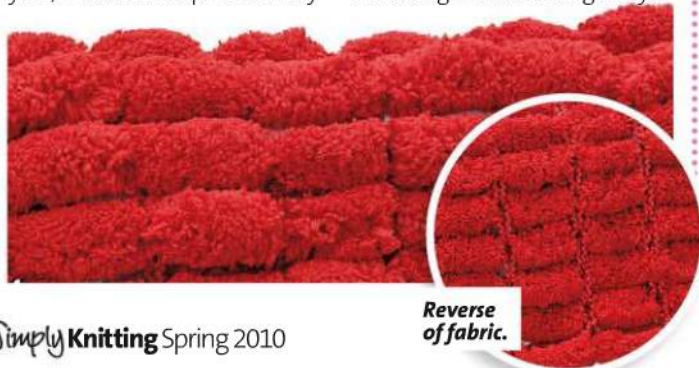
One ball is enough to make a scarf 18x200cm and the instructions inside the ball band are clear and concise. Richly textured yarns can often be tricky to work with but Sirdar advise knitting between the pom-poms, which makes Snowball simple to use. It's easy enough for beginners to handle and teens will love the quick results and trendy effects. However, as with any pom-pom yarn, it's best to keep it well away

from babies and animals as the fluffy pom-poms could be a choking hazard.

Knitted up on 8mm needles with just five stitches to 15cm, Snowball is quick to knit with, so even the 200cm scarf suggested will fly by. This makes it a great choice for throws or cushions. There are 12 colours in the range and the yarn is soft, light and warm; great for snuggling up with.

It also unravels surprisingly easily, which is useful for beginners but makes it worth using point protectors to keep your stitches safe between sessions.

The sample shown here is knitted in reverse stocking stitch on 8mm needles, but you can use different needles to create different effects. You may have to adjust your needle size to knit easily between the pom-poms. The yarn is best used for squares and rectangles as the pom-poms lying between the stitches make both increasing and decreasing tricky.



Reverse
of fabric.



Kirstie McLeod
Technical Editor



Elizabeth Bagwell
Reviews Editor

“Fluffy pom-poms separated by a thinner thread knit up to form fabrics which look nothing like traditional knitting. Fun and quick, these soft yarns are a great way to make novelty scarves and hats.”

Simply more!

* Wear pom-poms on your feet with Regia Pompon sock yarn. It's great for baby garments too. See page 91 for stockist details.

* Habu are well-known for their unusual yarns. Visit www.habutextiles.com to see some of the prettiest – and strangest – pom-pom yarns around.

* Grundl Spirit is available in over 50 bright and muted colours. Call 0845 313 0277 or email info@creativeyarns.co.uk for UK stockists of this German yarn.

Bergere de France

Funny

Ball weight 100g

Ball length 50m

Yarn content 100% polyamide nylon

Knits as chunky

RRP £6.49

Rec needle size 6mm



If you're not used to pom-pom yarns then Funny will strike you as, well, funny. It's made up of small, exceedingly fluffy pom-poms separated by 4cm of tightly made thread, and knits up chaotically, with pom-poms pushing through the fabric at random intervals.

There are seven colourways and the finished fabric is dense

and soft with a pretty variegated effect. The sample shown here was knitted in garter stitch on 6mm needles and is so textured that lace or cable patterns would not show up, although you could do basic shaping fairly easily. The yarn is machine washable.



Habico**Tiddly Pom!****Ball weight** 50g**Ball length** 85m**Yarn content**

100% polyester

Knits as chunky**RRP** approx £2.00**Rec needle size** 6½mm

Bright, cheerful colours change as you knit through a ball of Tiddly Pom!, creating a fun, soft fabric which is perfect for accents on cuffs, collars and hat brims.

Sold in 50g balls, it's easy to get the amount you want for a small project. However, like most pom-pom yarns the yardage is relatively short for the weight so buy an extra ball to make sure you

won't run out part of the way through your knitting.

Knitted in garter stitch on 6½mm needles, Tiddly Pom! forms a dense fabric which is soft and lightweight. Changing needles or holding a strand of another yarn with it will shift the stitch pattern from the regimented version shown to a more chaotic pattern.

**Lang****Hopla****Ball weight** 100g**Ball length** 60m**Yarn content**

100% polyester

Knits as chunky**RRP** £6.50**Rec needle size**

9-10mm

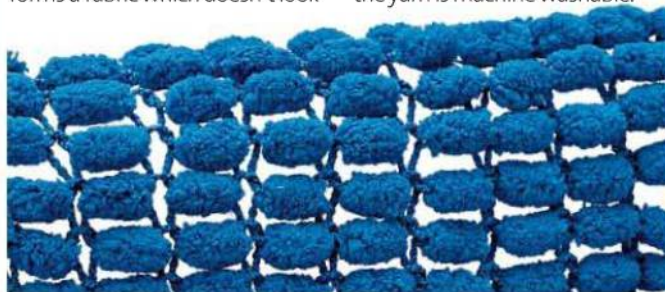


Small pom-poms knitted on large needles produces a loose, net-like fabric with the pom-poms seemingly strung between the stitches like beads.

The result is stretchy, soft and has a lovely drape making it ideal for striking shawls and scarves. Like many pom-pom yarns, Hopla forms a fabric which doesn't look

knitted, sure to draw comments from knitters and non-knitters.

Shown here in stocking stitch, the yarn is easy to knit but tricky to shape as the pom-poms distort the usual stitch shape, making even a k2tog tricky. There are five pretty colours to choose from and the yarn is machine washable.

**Rico Design****Pompon Print****Ball weight** 200g**Ball length** 100m**Yarn content**

100% polyester

Knits as chunky**RRP** £8.99**Rec needle size**

3½-4mm



As you knit with the print version of Rico Design's Pompon yarn you'll see the colour changes from pom-pom to pom-pom, giving the fabric a multicoloured effect.

There are nine variegated and 17 solid shades available. Knitting between the pom-poms on 4mm needles gives the finished fabric an even look. The sample shown

was knitted in garter stitch and is dense but light and does not drape much.

Unusually, the yarn is available in both 200g (shown) and 50g balls so you can easily pick up a small amount to embellish a garment or enough to knit a scarf.

The band on a 200g ball includes instructions for knitting a scarf 15x180cm. Hand wash.

**Stylecraft****Marshmallows****Ball weight** 200g**Ball length** 40m**Yarn content**

100% polyester

micro

Knits as chunky**RRP** £7.95**Rec needle size** 6mm

While most pom-pom yarns focus all the fluff in the pom-poms, Marshmallows has fluffy threads connecting them too, giving the finished fabric an unusual and striking texture.

While the pom-poms are matt, the thread between them shimmers, creating a fabric where two very different textures blend

together and the result looks nothing like a classic knitted fabric.

Light but dense, it's soft and warm. Kids will love the different textures so it's great for hats and scarves and there are six shades to choose from. The sample shown here was knitted in garter stitch and one ball contains enough yarn to knit a scarf 18x200cm.



Knitting Books

The Knitter's Book of Wool

Clara Parkes

Publisher: Potter Craft, £21.99*

Following on from *The Knitter's Book of Yarn*, Clara Parkes tightens her focus, looking at one of the most versatile and popular fibres around.

If you're wondering whether there's enough interesting information out there about wool to fill 200 pages, the answer is definitely 'yes'. Blending history, practical advice for knitters and technical details, Clara has created a book which will surprise you, entertain you – and help you choose your yarns better.

There are more than 200 distinct breeds of sheep in the world, yet most yarns either don't

specify a breed or name one of a few breeds (Merino and Blue-Faced Leicester are both common in the UK) but the wool from different breeds can knit up very differently.

From general information Clara moves on to specific details about different breeds. This section has a global perspective, including plenty of British sheep among the selection from around the world as well as unusual breeds from Clara's native USA.

Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs and pen-and-ink drawings of the sheep, this is a book you'll be proud to display.

The final section is devoted to designs in wool, with patterns for the whole family. The

designs are mostly accessories and include socks, hats and beautiful lace shawls.

Save 25% To order your copy for £16.50 (p&p not included) call 01273 488005 and quote code R2145. Offer closes 30 June 2010.



Dye One Knit One

Helen Deighan and Linda de Ruiter

Publisher: Self-published, £14.95

Take your knitting a step further by dyeing the yarn before you knit it.

Step-by-step projects and clear instructions makes *Dye One Knit One* a great choice if you want to try dyeing.

It's easy to dive in and get started quickly on a dye project. The book is designed to be used as you work and is spiral bound so it stays open easily. As well as specifically helping you create the yarn you want (self-striping or tweed effects, for example) there's information about dyes and fibres which will help you choose the best match for your situation. As a final bonus, there are 11 patterns designed to show off your new hand-dyed yarns, including simple socks and a really quirky clock face.

Save £2 To order your copy for £12.95 visit www.tallyarns.co.uk or call 01428 607516 and quote offer code 'Simply Spring'. Offer ends 30 April 2010.



Twenty to Make: Knitted Flowers

Susie Johns

Publisher: Search Press, £4.99

Make your own stash of knitted flowers and you'll have instant decorations for bags, clothes and all your accessories. Susie Johns' book shows you how, with 20 different floral patterns and clear step-by-step instructions.

Susie's made sure most of the flowers are quick and easy to make, although some are slightly more difficult, so there's something here for everyone. For example, the daffodil and lily require you to knit in the round on double-pointed needles, while the Periwinkle and Sweet William are a little more challenging. All the flowers are ideal for using up oddments of yarn and make a great change in between knitting bigger projects, or when you just fancy a break.

Free p&p To order your copy for £4.99 (free p&p, UK only) call 01892 510850 quoting 'Simply Knitting Spring'.



Knitting Brioche

Nancy Marchant

Publisher: North Light Books, £18.99*

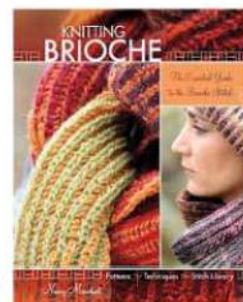
A whole book dedicated to one stitch might seem limiting, but as Nancy Marchant demonstrates, in this case it's well worth it.

Brioche stitch is often considered a challenge but it's actually easy to knit and surprisingly versatile.

Many knitters may not have used this stitch before, so Nancy begins by telling you about the history of the stitch, and shows you how to knit it. As she's had to develop new terms and techniques, it's a good idea to begin at the beginning with this one.

She quickly moves on, using plain and multicoloured stitch patterns to show that you can knit anything with brioche stitch – even cables – and includes 25 designs to knit, from striking scarves to full sweaters.

Save 40% To order your copy for £11.50 (free p&p, UK only) call RUCraft on 0844 8805851 or visit www.rucraft.co.uk and quote offer code R11182.



Knitting Patterns

King Cole Comfort Chunky

Smart kid's cable hoodie
Pattern code: 3181

Hoodies are really useful, versatile garments for kids and this smart design has a lot to offer.

As well as the long-sleeved hooded jumper shown on the front of the pattern, the leaflet also includes instructions for a sleeveless version and one without a hood, so it's easy to pick the one which will suit your kids best. There are 17 plain and variegated colourways to choose from, too, so you can knit a sleeveless gilet for warmer weather, a bright cardigan for grey winter days or go for a variegated pastel for a baby.

Designed to fit children from six months to five years – chest sizes 18-26in (46-66cm) – you'll get plenty of mileage out of this pattern.

King Cole Comfort Chunky is a hard-wearing acrylic/nylon blend which means there's no



need to worry about setting off a wool allergy. It's machine washable and can be tumble dried on a cool setting, and it's quick to knit up on 8mm needles. It's a great choice for long-lasting gifts knitted for quickly growing children.

Practical cable hoodie for kids up to five years.

Artesano Silk Embrace

Gorgeous ruffle-neck jumper
Pattern name: Coppelia

Elegant and romantic, Marita Rolin's ruffled-necked top adds a lovely feminine touch to your wardrobe.

It's knitted in Artesano Silk Embrace, which is soft and fluffy with a lovely halo. The silk gives the yarn a shimmer while the alpaca makes the jumper warm and light: ideal for a brisk spring day.

Soft lines and beautiful colours combine to form a gentle, luxurious knit. Shown here with a sequinned mini skirt ready for a night out, it's equally suitable for a casual day at the office or lunch with friends. Team it with a pencil skirt and kitten heels for a fun retro look. Fits bust size 32-40in (81-102cm).

Romantic ruffled top in fab silk blend yarn.



Rowan Various

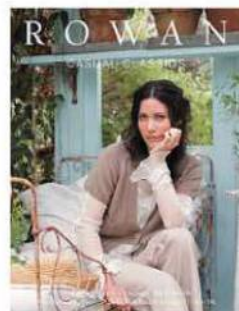
15 summery women's knits
Pattern book name: Casual Classics

Get ready for warm weather with 15 sunny designs from Martin Storey.

Using light and lovely Rowan DK yarns, Martin has created a collection with clean lines and elegant details. These simple, effective knits will quickly become wardrobe staples.

The pattern book includes information to help you knit any pattern in any Rowan DK yarn, so you can experiment with unusual fibres like Milk Cotton or Lenpur Linen as well as using your own tried-and-true favourites. As well as tops, the collection also includes a bag, blanket and a pair of cushions. Patterns to fit 32-50in (81-127cm) bust.

Great knits for a relaxed weekend look.



Wendy Various

20 fun vintage knits
Pattern book code: 335



Give your retro look an authentic twist with this collection of vintage patterns from Wendy's historic archives.

With patterns from several eras, this is a treasure trove for anyone who loves the styles of years

gone by. Our favourite is the 'Suit & Sweater', although we're not sure we're brave enough to wear a knitted mini to the office! The pattern book includes the original illustrations making this great fun to browse.

As the patterns have not been regraded, sizing is limited. Women's designs to fit bust sizes 34-38in (86-97cm), men's to fit chest sizes 36-42in (91-107cm). Needle sizes and yarn amounts have been updated to suit Wendy's current range of yarns, including the full set of Mode yarns, but otherwise the patterns remain unchanged so you may encounter abbreviations and instructions which are unfamiliar.

Genuine vintage patterns for retro knitting.

Araucania Various

21 quick knits for the family
Pattern book name: Designer Mini Knits Book 4

Araucania's 'Mini Knits' collections are well known, and for the latest edition they have teamed up with designer Jenny Watson

to bring you 21 projects for the whole family.

The designs range from socks to shrugs and each garment takes just a few skeins of yarn – most use one or two, but even the more complex knits use a surprisingly small amount of yarn, making them quick to knit and a great way to try out a gorgeous or extravagant yarn. For example, a shrug designed to fit bust sizes 32-42in (81-107cm) uses just 300g of yarn for the largest size.

Quick and simple knits in luxurious yarns.



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man's cardigan * Simple
lace stole * Alan Dart's
Rudolph the Reindeer *
Pudsey Bear * Christmas
coaster set * **NEW** 12
Quick & Easy Knits
* **PLUS!** Pair of wooden
shawl pins†

Issue 61 December*

* Soft, lacy cardigan *
Alan Dart's Nutcracker *
4 Christmas jumpers:
man's, woman's, boy's
and girl's * Driving
gloves * Christmas
stocking * 12 Quick &
Easy Knits including
'pudding' teacosy and
Santa hat for baby.
* **PLUS!** 2010 diary†

Issue 62 January*

* Trendy jumper dress *
Alan Dart's Snow Queen
case * Teen accessories
* Silk halter top * Felted
tree decorations * Man's
rib jumper * Fancy table
mats * 12 Quick & Easy
Knits including beanie
hat and legwarmers
* **PLUS!** Sew-in labels†

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* Audrey Hepburn-style
jacket * Elegant silver
tunic * Textured cream
jumper * Alan Dart's
Pierrot & Pierrette *
Slouchy socks * Fair Isle
hot water bottle cover *
12 Quick & Easy Knits
including loveheart
socks and cosy blanket
PLUS! Tape measure†

Issue 64 March*

* Warm thigh-length
jacket * Alan Dart's Sox
the Cat * Girl's cable &
bobble hoodie * Teen
boy's tweed jumper *
Rowan alpaca tunic
* Trio of bags * Hat &
wristwarmer set * 12
Quick & Easy Knits
including floral tea cosy
PLUS! Bag handles†

Issue 65 April*

* Leaf-patterned pink
gilet * Child's dinosaur
jumper * Longline blue
& white tunic * Alan
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www.freedomnews.net

Knitting Websites

Lacis Museum www.lacismuseum.org

The online side of Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles is packed with an amazing set of virtual exhibits – ideal for those of us who can't visit in person.

Hundreds of photographs cover a wide range of lace and textile crafts, from Debbie New's knitted sculptures to vintage and antique bridal wear. The exhibitions are fascinating and are sure to set your creative side spinning as new ideas hit you left and right. The online format means you can linger as long as you like over one photo or skip past ones which don't grab you. And as if that isn't



enough, there's a mail order bookshop to browse with plenty of unusual titles, too.

Gorgeous lace and textiles, new and old.



Lucy Neatby www.lucyneatby.com

Expert designer and teacher Lucy Neatby's website is a great mix as it includes a packed shop, plenty of eye-candy and her blog.

The gallery is probably the best place to start as it's packed with Lucy's favourite knits. Each includes information about the design – when and why it was knitted, for example, or particular technical details – which makes it a really interesting area to browse.

Next, head on over to the shop where you'll find Lucy's own books and patterns as well as her series of DVDs which will help you master tricky techniques. And don't miss her blog; linked to in her introduction, it's full of updates about what's on her needles.

Shop, ogle, discover.



The Knitting Vault www.theknittingvault.com

Packed with hundreds of knitting patterns, The Knitting Vault is a great resource for impatient knitters as, once you order, you'll receive your pattern straight away.

The site hosts designs from a wide range of designers, including both well-known names and new faces, so there's a wide selection of styles to choose from.

With all pattern shops it's important to be able to find what you're looking for quickly. The Knitting Vault makes searching easy by giving you a set of useful drop-down menus so you can winnow down the patterns until you find the perfect one. Once you've made your choice, simply click through to buy.

Browse and buy dozens of patterns.



The Black Sheep www.blacksheepwools.co.uk

Recent renovations both online and off make this popular retailer a great choice for finding a yarn bargain.

The Black Sheep is a family-run business with 25 years experience in the yarn trade. They've recently redesigned their website making it brighter, cleaner and easier to use.

The website focuses on selling yarns below the RRP so, while colour palettes and ranges may be limited in some cases, you'll be sure to get a bargain. They have a wide range of brands available including top names such as Noro, Rowan and Sublime as well as harder to find brands like Adiafil, Rico Design and Filati.

The site also stocks cross stitch kits, threads and accessories. Alongside the website renovation comes the opening of a new shop, the Black Sheep Craft Barn, where you can pick up bargains in person.

Brand name yarns at discount prices.



Knitting Kninja www.knittingkninja.com

It's surprising how much of the world you can get in frame while still looking through the lens of knitting.

Kristen, the Knitting Kninja behind this fab blog, focuses on knitting and craft projects but manages to find time to blog about her three kids (in handknits), fundraising (through pattern sales) and lots more.

A knitting designer and passionate knitter, Kristen's blog is packed with plenty of finished object shots to admire. As an added bonus, many of the designs are her own or patterns she's test knitting for other designers so it's a great chance to add something new to your 'must knit' list.

Knitting, designing, family and craft.

Ask the Experts

Yarn in knots? Knitting in a tangle? Each month our experts solve your problems.

Meet our Experts



Debora Bradley
Editor
Commissioning skimpy summer tops – time for sun!



Kirstie McLeod
Technical Editor
Finishing up her warm winter woollies.



Elizabeth Bagwell
Reviews Editor
Looking forward to lazy days knitting in the sunshine.



Miriam McDonald
Production Editor
Tracking down spring fashions for you and your home.

GETTING BIG-HEADED

Q I have finished a toddler jumper with a round neck and it looks lovely, but when I try to put it on the toddler the neck won't go over her head. Should I pull out the neck stitches and start again or can I cut down the side of the neck and add buttons?

Andrea Moore via email

A It's entirely possible to cut up your knitting. This is called 'steeking' and is often used to create sleeve and neck openings in jumpers knitted in the round. However, you will need to stop the yarn unravelling once you've cut it so it's not recommended unless you're using pure wool or a yarn with a high quantity of an animal fibre which will felt as these are less likely to unravel.

We recommend that you unravel the neck and unpick a shoulder seam. You can then knit the neck back and forth and add a button band to keep it closed.

If it's a tight cast off which is

causing the problems, you could solve it by trying a looser one such as *k2tog, slip st back onto LH needle, rep from * to end.



You can pick up the bar from the front or back for a M1.



Which one you choose affects the way the increase leans.

LEFT, RIGHT?

Q I've a pattern with the following abbreviations: 'inc 1 st knitwise left', 'inc 1 st knitwise right', 'inc 1 st purlwise left' and 'inc 1 st purlwise right'. I know how to increase but I've never come across these before. Help!

Soniya via email

A It's hard to say for certain as abbreviations are not standard – as you've discovered – but it seems that the pattern is telling you which way the increases should slant. So 'inc 1 st knitwise left' is probably a left-leaning increase like a



Ribbing two together reduces stitches while retaining elasticity.

M1B (lift the bar between the stitches from the *back* and knit into the *front*) as opposed to an M1F (lift the bar from the *front* and knit into the *back*) and similarly for the purl stitches. You can see video instructions for a range of increases at www.knittinghelp.com

RIB2TOG

Q I'm making the New Leaf waistcoat from the last issue. Although I can guess what rib2tog means, I don't actually know and I'd like to get this pattern right. Can you tell me please?

D Simmons Fife

A Rib2tog is on the last row of rib for this top, so the next row will be the start of the main pattern on the top. You'll be working the next 2 stitches together, so if the first stitch you get to is a purl stitch then p2tog, and then if it's a knit stitch then you need to k2tog.

TENSION TENSION

Q I love knitting but I am getting very despondent: everything I make turns out too big or baggy. I knit the tension square as instructed and even try to adjust the needles but still it comes out too big. I have just knitted a tension square on 3.25mm needles, 29 sts to 49 rows for a 4x4in square. Mine came out as 5x5in and a little bit. I feel

GADGET WE LOVE!

Eucalan No-Rinse Wash

Keep your delicates looking their best with this easy-to-use wash. It's been available in Canada for years and is making a splash on this side of the pond, too. Available in four scents, it doesn't need rinsing out so there's less wear and tear on your garments.

Available in eucalyptus, lavender, grapefruit and natural, 100ml costs about £3-£4, 500ml costs about £11. Ask at your yarn shop or call Moral Fibre on 01422 886250 for stockists.



TOP READER TIP!

I've found a great way to fill doorstops and other weighty knitted items – baking beans! They can be washed and heated to kill germs, which is handy in a house with pets.

Rita Walker, Cheshire

Ceramic Baking Beans, £3.99 from Lakeland. Visit www.lakeland.co.uk or call 015394 88100 for store locations.



There are all sorts of websites where you can look for patterns.

like slinging in my needles – please help!

Debbie Viney Reading

It sounds like you're quite a loose knitter and there is nothing wrong with that. The simplest way to adjust it is to use needles several sizes smaller than suggested – try casting on your tension square on 2.5mm needles, and if it's still too big go smaller again. If it's come out too small, go up to 2.75mm and try again. It's frustrating at first but you'll soon get an idea of what size needles you use for a particular yarn.

As the tension you knit at is so personal, it can be affected by which yarn (slippery silk or a sticky wool for example) or type of needle (slick metal or grippy bamboo) you use, so you may want to experiment.

PATTERN SEARCH

I am searching for a pattern for socks with individually knitted toes. Could

you advise me where it would be best to look?

Loretta Hickey via email

If you're looking for a pattern, start online. There are several great websites to try – start with www.ravelry.com which has a database of designs, including many free patterns and ones you can buy instantly. It's free and easy to use so it's well worth signing up.

There is also a growing number of online pattern shops. We like www.patternfish.com as they've got a good search function and a collection of almost 5,000 patterns.

CABLE TWIST

I'm knitting the sporty scarf for my boyfriend, but I've got stuck on row 7. I think the middle cable pattern is missing, please help.

Anna Baker London

Here's how Row 7 should read to make the centre cable plait: K5, P2, C4B, P2, K2, C4B, P2, C4F, P2, K5.

Simple cream and cables – very manly.



HOW TO... KNIT WITH POM-PON YARN

How to knit with bobbly pom-pom yarn.



1 Knit the first edge stitch: this will be formed from the thread between the pom-pons.



2 Hold the pom-pom with your index and middle fingers and insert the needle into the next stitch.



3 Let go of the pom-pom and knit the stitch, keeping the pom-pom between the 2 stitches.



4 Knit the next stitch, then repeat the 3 steps again.

Now you know how to knit it, turn to **page 72** for our pom-pom yarn reviews

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www.BlackerDesigns.co.uk

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Most yarns are in natural colours and come in Double Knitting weight. Many are also in 4-Ply while some come in Light Aran, Aran or Chunky. Please contact us with queries or if you want something from our specialist dye plant.

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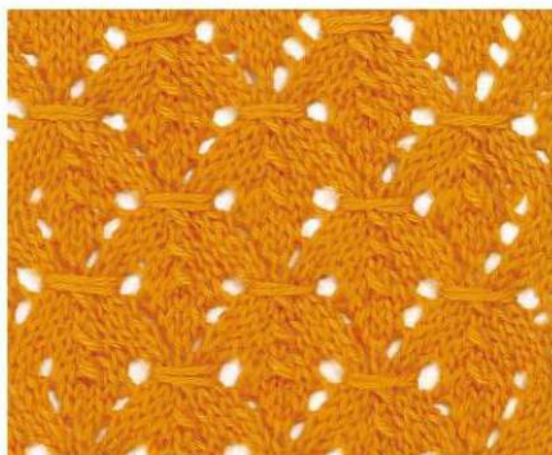
Don't be intimidated by fancy stitches; they look great and enable you to be really creative! Try out three of our favourites here...

Abbreviations

K	knit
k2tog	knit the next two stitches together
P	purl
p2tog	purl the next two stitches together
psso	pass slipped stitch over
rep(s)	repeat(s)
R(L)H	right (left) hand
sl 1	slip next st (slip as though to purl unless otherwise stated)
st(s)	stitch(es)
tbl	through the back of the loop
yf	yarn forward



The yarn used is **artesano 100% Alpaca DK, shade 8774, Ecuador**.



Wheatsheaf

Cast on a multiple of 12 sts plus 1. (Try 49 sts.)

Row 1 (RS) *K1, yf, K4, sl 1 knitwise, k2tog, psso, K4, yf; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 2 and every alternate row Purl.

Row 3 *K2, yf, K3, sl 1 knitwise, k2tog, psso, K3, yf, K1; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 5 *K3, yf, insert RH needle between the 7th and 8th sts on the LH needle, take yarn round needle, draw up a long loop and knit this loop and the 1st of the 7 sts together, K1, sl 1 knitwise, k2tog, psso, K2, yf, K2; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 7 K2tog, K4, yf, *K1, yf, K4, sl 1 knitwise, k2tog, psso, K4, yf; rep from * to last 7 sts, K1, yf, K4, sl 1 knitwise, K1, psso.

Row 9 K2tog, K3, yf, K1, *K2, yf, K3, sl 1 knitwise, k2tog, psso, K3, yf, K1; rep from * to last 7 sts, K2, yf, K3, sl 1 knitwise, K1, psso.

Row 11 K2tog, K2, yf, K2 *K3, yf, insert RH needle between the 7th and 8th sts on LH needle, take yarn round needle, draw up a long loop and knit this loop and the 1st of the 7 sts together, K1, sl 1 knitwise, k2tog, psso, K2, yf, K2; rep from * to last 7 sts, K3, yf, K2, sl 1 knitwise, K1, psso.

Row 12 Purl.

These 12 rows form pattern.



Checkers

Cast on a multiple of 6 sts plus 5. (Try 47 sts.)

Rows 1, 3 & 5 (RS) *K4, P2; rep from * to last 5 sts, K5.

Rows 2, 4, 6 & 8 P5, *K2, P4; rep from * to end.

Row 7 *Insert RH needle after the 4th st on LH needle, take yarn round needle, draw up a loop and place on LH needle, then knit this loop and the next st tog tbl, K3, P2; rep from * to last 5 sts, insert RH needle after the 4th st on LH needle, draw up a loop and place it on LH needle, then knit this loop and the next st together tbl, K4.

Rows 9, 11 & 13 K1, P2, *K4, P2; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Rows 10, 12, 14 & 16 P2, *K2, P4; rep from * to last 3 sts, K2, P1.

Row 15 K1, P2, *insert RH needle after the 4th st on LH needle, take yarn round needle, draw up a loop and place it on LH needle, then knit this loop and the next st tog tbl, K3, P2; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

These 16 rows form the pattern.



Snowdrops

Cast on a multiple of 6 sts plus 1. (Try 43 sts.)

Row 1 & 3 (RS) *K4 P2; rep from * to last st, K1.

Rows 2 & 4 P1, *K2, P4; rep from * to end.

Row 5 *Insert RH needle after the 4th st on the LH needle, take yarn round needle, draw up a loop, K1, P2, K3; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 6 P1, *P3, K2, p2tog; rep from * to end.

Row 7 & 9 *K1, P2, K3; rep from * to last st, K1.

Rows 8 & 10 *P4, K2; rep from * to last st, P1.

Row 11 K1, *K2, insert RH needle after the 4th st on the LH needle, take yarn round needle, draw up a loop, K1, P2, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 12 *P1, K2, p2tog, P2; rep from * to last st, P1.

These 12 rows form pattern.



Essential Guide

Start here!

Discover the basics of knitting here, and turn over to find out more about crochet.

Our aim here at *Simply Knitting* is to get you knitting and crocheting. Whether you're new to needles and yarn, or want to rekindle the passion you once had for the hobby, we've got all the basics right here. Over the next four pages we'll take you from cast on to knit and purl, and from chain to treble. If you need more help, see overleaf for how to contact us for more extensive guides to knitting and crochet.

All you really need to start off with is a pair of knitting needles or a crochet hook and a ball of yarn. Once you've mastered the basics, you'll have the confidence to begin your first knitted or crocheted item (a scarf is a good choice). Keep your kit in a small purse in your knitting bag, so that it's always on hand when you need to knit!

Cast on: thumb method Use this all-purpose cast-on for an elastic edge – it works well for ribbing.



1 Place a slipknot with a long tail of 1in (2.5cm) per stitch on one needle. Hold the needle and yarn in your right hand.



2 Holding the tail end in your left hand, wrap it around your left thumb by bringing the needle across to the left, over and around your thumb.



3 Insert the point of the needle through the loop from front to back, then wind the ball end around the needle, going from left to right.



4 Pull the loop through the thumb loop, then move the thumb over the tip of the needle. Remove your thumb and pull the yarn to tighten.

Cast on: cable method Choose this cast-on for a firm edge, and when adding stitches within your work.



1 Make a slipknot and put the right-hand needle behind the knot. Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle anticlockwise.



2 Pull the right-hand needle back under the left-hand needle, bringing the yarn loop on the tip of the right-hand needle towards you.



3 Pull the loop out with the right-hand needle, then slip it over the end of the tip of the left-hand needle, as shown above.



4 Insert your needle between the stitches on the left-hand needle and repeat steps 1-4 until you have a cast-on row of stitches.

Cast off Finish off your knitting with this straightforward cast-off technique.



1 Start by knitting the first two stitches of the row as normal, but don't go any further along as you usually would.



2 Insert the left-hand needle through the first stitch, as shown. Lift this stitch over the other stitch on the right-hand needle and over the needle point.



3 Knit another stitch so you have two on the right needle. Lift the first stitch over the second, then repeat steps 1-3.



4 When you get to the last stitch, cut the yarn about 6in (15cm) away, feed it through the loop and pull through firmly.

Knit Follow our simple steps to make the most important stitch you'll learn.



1 Hold the needle with the stitches on it in your left hand. Keeping the yarn in your right hand and at the back of your work, insert the point of the right-hand needle into the front loop of the first stitch, as shown.



2 Wind the yarn anti-clockwise around the point of the right-hand needle using your index finger. It's important to keep the yarn in your right hand relatively taut to maintain an even tension as you go.



3 Bring the right-hand needle back through the loop, making sure that you catch the yarn you wound around the needle. This creates the stitch. Don't pull the free yarn too tightly. Let out some slack and it will be easier.



4 Push the point of the right needle further through the stitch you created, then gently pull the right needle to your left, taking the original loop with it. You've now created one knit stitch. Repeat these steps.

Purl To make purl stitches, just reverse the action of plain knit stitches.



1 Holding the needle with all the stitches on in your left hand, and ensuring that your ball end yarn is at the front of your work, insert the right-hand needle through the front loop of your first stitch as shown.



2 Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle from right to left, in an anti-clockwise motion, constantly keeping a slight tension on the yarn.



3 Now slip the right-hand needle back through the stitch, ensuring that you 'catch' the yarn that you've already wound around the needle. This creates a stitch on your right-hand needle.



4 Pushing the point of the right-hand needle a little further through the stitch you've just created, pull the first stitch off the left-hand needle. That's your first purl stitch! Repeat points 1-4 across the row.

Needle sizes

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	0
13	2½mm	1
—	2½mm	—
12	2½mm	2
11	3mm	—
10	3½mm	3
—	3½mm	4
9	3½mm	5
8	4mm	6
7	4½mm	7
6	5mm	8
5	5½mm	9
4	6mm	10
3	6½mm	10½
2	7mm	—
1	7½mm	—
0	8mm	11
00	9mm	13
000	10mm	15
—	12mm	17
—	15mm	19
—	20mm	36
—	25mm	50

Knitting abbreviations

alt	alternate	MB	make a bobble	ssk	slip 2 stitches one at a time, knit 2 slipped stitches together (1 stitch decreased)
approx	approximately	MC	main colour	ssp	slip 2 stitches one at a time, purl 2 slipped stitches together through back of the loops 1 stitch decreased)
beg	beginning	P/p	purl	st(s)	stitch(es)
CB	cable back	patt(s)	pattern(s)	st st	stocking stitch
CC	contrast colour	patt rep(s)	pattern repeat(s)	tbl	through the back of the loop
CF	cable forward	PB	place bead	tog	together
CN	cable needle	pfb	purl into front and back of stitch	WS	wrong side
cont	continue	PM	place marker	wyib	with yarn behind
dec	decrease (by working two stitches together)	P2tog	purl 2 stitches together (1 stitch decreased)	wyif	with yarn in front
DK	double knitting	P3tog	purl 3 stitches together (2 stitches decreased)	ybk	yarn to the back
dpn	double-pointed needle	prev	previous	yfwd	yarn forward
fol	following	pssso	pass slipped stitch over	yo	yarn over
g st	garter stitch (knit every row)	p2sso	pass 2 slipped stitches over	ym	yarn round needle
inc	increase (usually knit into same stitch twice)	pwise	by purling the stitch	yon	yarn over needle
K/k	knit	rem	remain/remaining		<i>work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed</i>
kfb	knit into front and back of stitch	rep(s)	repeat(s)		
kwise	by knitting the stitch	rev st st	reverse stocking stitch		
k2tog	knit the next two stitches together	RH	right hand		
LH/lh	left hand	rnd(s)	round(s) (on a circular needle)		
LT	left twist	RS	right side		
meas	measures	RT	right twist		
M1	make one (increase 1 stitch)	skpo	slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, pass slipped stitch over (1 stitch decreased)		
M1L	make one twisted to the left (increase 1 stitch)	sk2po	slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together, pass slipped stitch over (2 stitches decreased)		
M1R	make one twisted to the right (increase 1 stitch)	sl	slip		
M1p	make one purlwise (increase 1 stitch)	sl st	slip stitch		

TOP TIP!

Always check the list of abbreviations given on each pattern for any special abbreviations.

Chain stitch This is the foundation of all crochet stitches.



1 About 6in (15cm) from the end of the yarn, make a loop with the ball end on top. Insert the hook through this loop and catch the yarn, pulling it through the loop. Slide the slipknot up to the hook.



2 With the hook in your right hand, hold the slipknot between thumb and finger of the left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn.



3 Pull the hook and yarn back through the slipknot loop to form your first chain (ch) stitch. Now repeat steps **1** and **2** until you've formed a chain.



4 This is what your row of chains will look like. Keep going until you have the number of chains which are stated on your pattern. (Don't count the slipknot.)

Slip stitch This stitch won't add height.



1 Insert the hook from front to back under the top of the second chain from the hook. Wrap the yarn round the hook (this is known as yrh).



2 Pull the yarn through both loops on the hook to make a slip stitch (sl st). To carry on working a row of slip stitches, insert the hook into the next chain down and so on, repeating step **2** each time.

Chain foundation ring & spiral



1 Make a short length of foundation chain as stated in your pattern instructions, for example, ch 5. Insert hook into the first chain.



2 Close the ring with a slip stitch (yarn round hook and pull through). You can continue the spiral. If working in the round, add a stitch marker here.

Double crochet This easy stitch is frequently used and forms a smooth, firm surface.



1 Skip 2 chain stitches and insert the hook under the top loop of the 3rd chain.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook and pull it through the chain loop, leaving two loops on your crochet hook.



3 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on your hook ready to do the next stitch. Continue to the end of the chain, but don't work into the slip knot.



4 For the following (full) rows, turn work and ch1. This is the turning chain (t-ch) and counts as the first dc. Skip the stitch at the base of the t-ch, then work 1dc under the top 2 loops of each stitch, including the top of t-ch on full rows.

Treble crochet A very popular stitch, it's twice as high as double crochet.



1 Make a foundation chain. Skip 3 chain, yarn round hook, then insert the hook under the loop of the 4th chain, yarn round hook.



2 Pull the yarn through the chain loop only (leaving 3 loops on hook), yarn round hook.

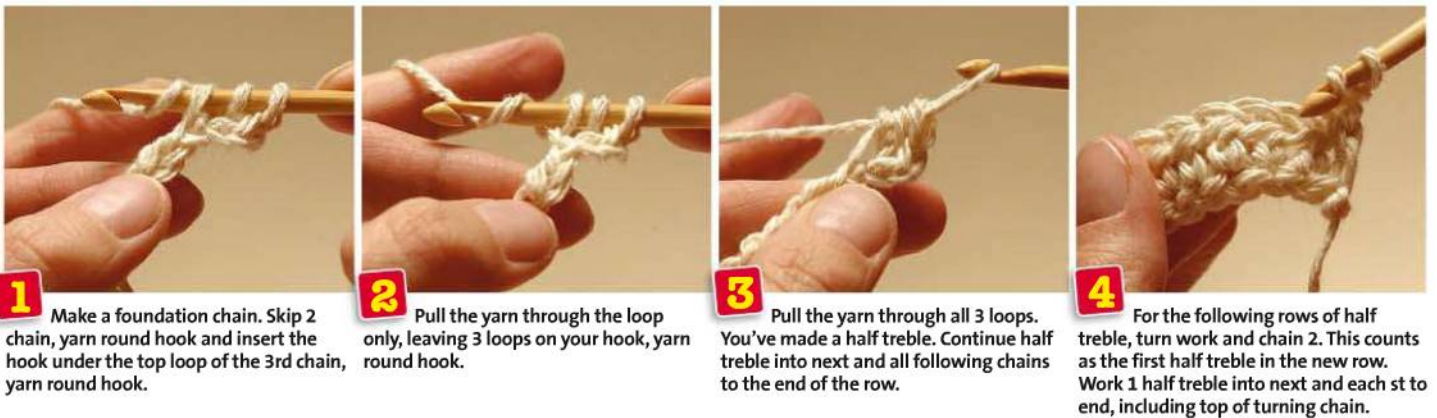


3 Pull the yarn through 2 loops only (2 loops on hook), yarn round hook. Pull the yarn through these 2 loops. Continue working treble into the next and all following chains to the end of the row.

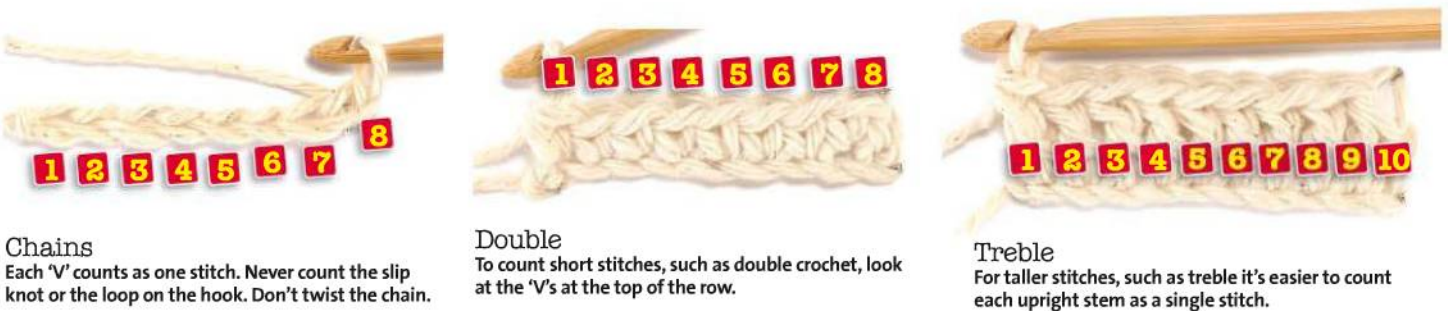


4 To make the next and following rows, turn work and chain 3. This is the turning chain and counts as 1 treble. Work 1 treble into top 2 loops of 2nd stitch in previous row. Work into top of each stitch across the row.

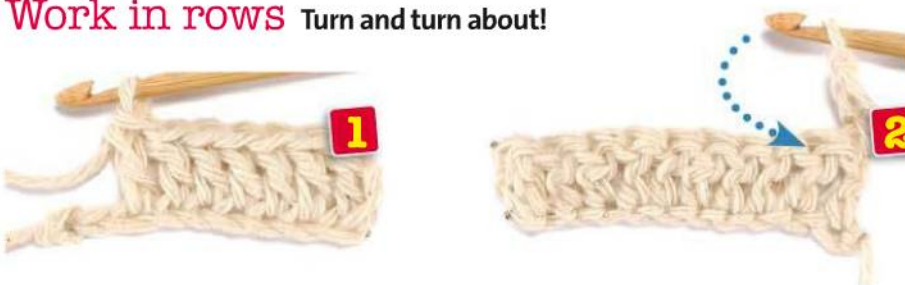
Half treble This easy stitch is frequently used and forms a smooth, firm surface.



Count chains and stitches Make sure you are working the correct number of stitches.



Work in rows Turn and turn about!



How to continue your work
Make the first row by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so the yarn is behind the hook. Make a turning chain and work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row.

Hook sizes

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	B/1
13	2.25mm	—
12	2.5mm	C/2
11	3mm	—
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	—
0	8mm	—
00	9mm	—
000	10mm	—

Crochet abbreviations

across	to the end of the row	lp(s)	loop(s)
alt	alternate	nc	not closed
approx	approximate(ly)	patt	patterns
beg	beginning	p or pc	picot
bet	between	rf	raised front
bl	insert hook under back loop only. Example: bldc – back loop double crochet	rb	Example: rfdc – raised front double crochet
ch(s)	chain or chain stitch(es)	rem	remaining
ch sp(s)	chain space(s)	rep	repeat
cl(s)	clusters	rnd	round
cont	continue	sk	skip
dc	double crochet	sl st	slip stitch
dc2tog	work 2 dc together	sp(s)	space(s)
dec	decrease	st(s)	stitch(es)
dtr	double treble crochet	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
dtr2tog	work 2 dtr together	tog	together
fl	insert hook under front loop only. Example: fldc – front loop double crochet	tr	treble crochet
fol	following	tr2tog	work 2 tr together
gr	group	yrh	yarn round hook
htr	half treble crochet	*	work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed
htr2tog	work 2 htr together		
in next	sts to be worked into same stitch		
inc	increase		

Still confused?

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McAree Brothers has a huge stock of yarn, with walls filled with colours and texture. "My favourite part of the job is choosing all the lovely new yarns," smiles Lucy. "We stock all the classic brands you'd expect, from Rowan to Regia, and also

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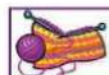
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Club of the month



The Harrow Knitters

Who are you?

Knitters and crocheters who live in and around Harrow. Two of our members own online knitting shops so keep our yarn supplies well stocked – Victoria owns www.cafeknit.com and Julie owns www.banyantreeyarns.com. Emily Blades, author of *Eco-Friendly Knits*, is also a member, as is Rowan design consultant Freddie Patmore.

How did the group get started?

Jayne and Lesley set up the group a few years ago. The first meeting was in a pub but it was too dark and smoky! The group has grown and moved around since then.

What sort of things do you knit?

Everyone works on their own projects, which range from baby blankets to hats and shawls. Some of us are currently doing a knitalong, and are all knitting 'Fetching' gloves (from Knitty.com) at the same time, so we can motivate each other and help each other out.

Do you do any knitting for charity?

We worked on a blanket together in December and raffled it for charity, raising £147 for our local Teenage Cancer Trust. The yarn was donated by Victoria.

What are meetings like?

We work on our projects, help each other out, pass around our latest books and magazines, and have a chat. We

sometimes hold a yarn swap and have also gone on a few day trips, including trips to the UK Ravelry Day and the iKnit weekend.

What's the best thing about the group?

The group contains talented designers and knowledgeable knitters from all over the world. It's great when someone can ask off the wall questions and someone else will catch the ideas and relate. But we can only do that because we have such a great mix of creative people as members.

What are your plans for the future?

We're thinking of introducing a crochet night and we are planning more trips to knitting events as well as social events.

What advice would you give someone starting a club?

The venue is key – somewhere nice and accessible that people like and where you can make friends with the management. Use Ravelry, Facebook and every knitting site to advertise your group. You can also put leaflets in the knitting books in your local library! Start today, and keep it fun, welcoming and inclusive for all ages and abilities. Make new friends and pick up some knitting tips along the way.



The Harrow Knitters have some very talented members.

CLUB DIRECTORY

There are so many fantastic clubs around that we can't fit them all in the magazine! We've moved the list of clubs to our website, www.simplyknitting.co.uk but if you're not online, just send us a stamped self-addressed envelope and we'll print it out for you.

If you'd like to change your club details, or add your knitting group, please email us at simplyknitting@futurenet.com or write to us at Club Directory, Simply Knitting, Future, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW

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If we choose you to be club of the month, you'll win a yarn bundle from big-brand discounter Abakhan, worth £50, to share with all your members! To tell us about your club, email us at: simplyknitting@futurenet.com or write to us at Club of the Month, Simply Knitting, Future, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW



Simply fun

Pick up a pen and untangle our prize crossword for your chance to win one of **30 copies** of Rowan's **Miniature Classics** pattern book.

Enter!
**WIN ONE OF
30 ROWAN
PATTERN
BOOKS**

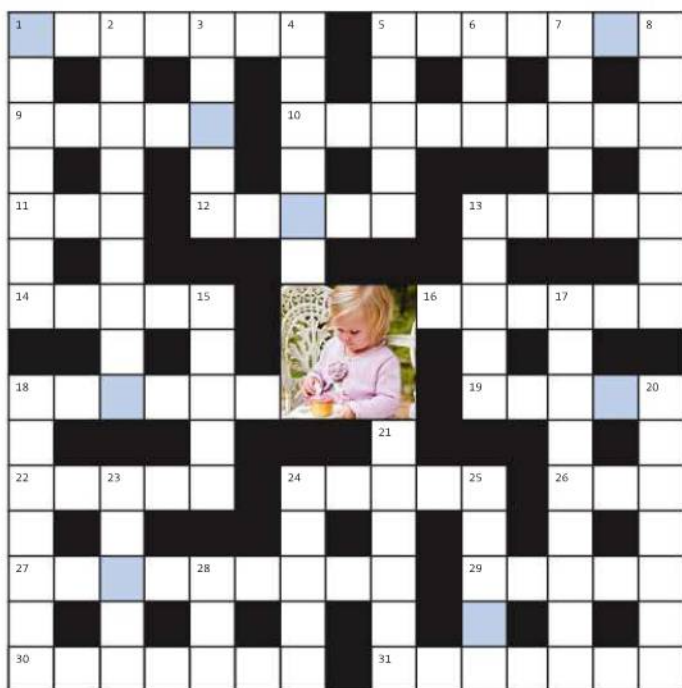


Get your little ones ready for summer with this new collection of designs by Martin Storey.

The 20 knits use soft Rowan yarns in lightweight fibres so they're ideal for warm spring days spent in the park or garden. With a mix of simple, everyday

tops and smart party outfits you'll be able to fill a wardrobe with lovingly-made clothes.

The collection includes several toy patterns and the garments are designed to fit children aged 0-3 years, so it's great for gifts, too, and you can choose from simple or complex designs.



Across

- 1 Sewing template (7)
- 5 Patron (7)
- 9 Dangerous (5)
- 10 Limousine driver (9)
- 11 Monkey (3)
- 12 Mark ____, author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (5)
- 13 Small plant (5)
- 14 Perfume (5)
- 16 Weymouth's county (6)
- 18 Make first stitches (4,2)
- 19 Florida city (5)
- 22 Call on (5)
- 24 Vision (5)
- 26 Frozen water (3)
- 27 Easily shaped (9)
- 29 Outside seating area (5)
- 30 Anxious (7)
- 31 Worked out (7)

Down

- 1 Maybe (7)
- 2 Unsavory (9)
- 3 Country of the pyramids (5)
- 4 Sweet liquid collected by bees (6)
- 5 Iberian country (5)
- 6 Not on (3)
- 7 Ancient weapon (5)
- 8 Welsh ____, cheesy meal (7)

ISSUE 64 ANSWERS



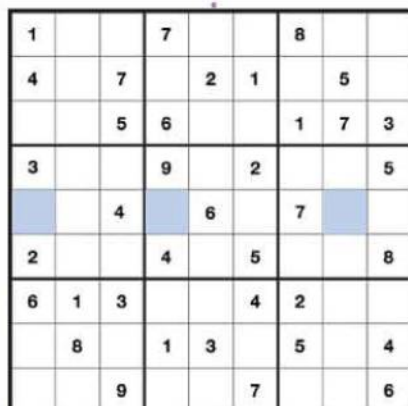
The prize word was: **Snakes**

- 13 Tempest (5)
- 15 Freshwater fish (5)
- 17 Fact obtained by analysing numbers (9)
- 18 Prehistoric person (7)
- 20 Correct temperature for lager (3-4)
- 21 Ancient story (6)
- 23 From the sun (5)
- 24 Monies owed (5)
- 25 Small motorcycle (5)
- 28 The self (3)

PRIZE SUDOKU

Solve our sudoku for your chance to win one of **10 copies** of *Knitted Pirates, Princesses, Witches, Wizards and Fairies* by Annette Hefford. This collection of magical beings will be a hit with all ages. Kids will love the fact that all the

clothes and accessories are interchangeable and adults will love the attention to detail, such as Elizabeth Witch's natty purple drawers.



HOW TO SOLVE

The numbers 1-9 should be placed into the grid in such a way that each horizontal row and vertical column contains a different digit. In addition, each of the nine blocks of nine smaller squares should contain a different digit.

5	1	2	4	8	6	9	7	3
6	7	9	2	3	1	5	4	8
8	4	3	5	9	7	2	6	1
2	3	5	7	1	8	4	9	6
7	9	1	3	6	4	8	2	5
4	6	8	9	5	2	3	1	7
1	5	7	8	2	9	6	3	4
3	2	6	1	4	5	7	8	9
9	8	4	6	7	3	1	5	2

ISSUE 64 SOLUTION

HOW TO ENTER

When you've completed our puzzles rearrange the letters that appear in blue squares in the crossword to make the Prize Puzzle Word and list the numbers in the blue squares from left to right to make our Prize Number. Text **SKXWORD66** then a space followed by the Prize Puzzle Word to enter the crossword or **SKSUDOKU66** then a space followed by the Prize Number, then your name and address to **87474** or enter online at www.simplyknitting.co.uk using just the prize word. Closes **22 April 2010**.

See page 21 for SMS text terms and conditions. You will have to send separate text messages to enter each competition.



**Aries**

(21 Mar-20 Apr)

Looking for new challenges? Leave the house! Step out of your comfort zone and you'll find plenty of excitement, whether it's a dyeing course or a new knitting group.

Taurus

(21 Apr-21 May)

Work together and you'll get twice as much done. If you've got a brilliant idea, enlist some help – get the gang together and knit for charity or make a throw for a special occasion.

Gemini

(22 May-22 Jun)

Have faith in your abilities; you can do more than you think you can. Scared of that pattern? Read it through then dive in and try it – yarn is very forgiving!

Cancer

(23 Jun-23 Jul)

If you're finding life stressful, take things down a notch and go back to the basics. Complex lace gone wrong? Charts in a tangle? Cast on a simple sock and relax.

Leo

(24 Jul-23 Aug)

Relationships alter and transitions can be hard. Maybe you've outgrown your knitting class or forum, so make the change and smile.

Virgo

(24 Aug-23 Sep)

Gentle Virgos may find themselves being taken advantage of. If it's hard to say 'no' to something, reward yourself by spending the time you save on a gorgeous new project.

Libra

(24 Sep-23 Oct)

In a flamboyant mood? Celebrate the return of warmer weather with fiery yellows and reds or spring greens. Even a cheerful scarf will help beat the winter blues.

Scorpio

(24 Oct-22 Nov)

Be decisive! It's time to finish or ditch stalled projects. Whether it's at work, at home or ripping back half-finished sweaters, you'll feel lighter after a clear out.

Sagittarius

(23 Nov-22 Dec)

Watch out, jumping to conclusions will leave you in a tangle this month. If you're starting a new pattern make sure you read it all the way through before you cast on.

Capricorn

(23 Dec-19 Jan)

You're on top of the world – and that's a great perspective to plan from. Cast on a challenging new knit and surprise yourself.

Aquarius

(20 Jan-19 Feb)

What goes around comes around, good and bad. A run of excellent projects will eventually end in disaster but that's only natural. Rip it back and try again!

Pisces

(20 Feb-20 Mar)

Which will you regret more: failure or a missed opportunity? Perhaps you're thinking of selling your patterns, dyeing yarn or taking a knitting holiday all by yourself – opportunity may not knock twice.

Marjorie Orr's stars

To hear Marjorie's predictions for your star sign each week, call

0905 072 3590*

and select your sign.

Call one of Marjorie's hand-picked team of psychics & mediums on

0906 539 1211*

for answers and guidance to your questions!

* 0905 calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline. Other networks and mobile will vary. 0906 calls cost £1.50 per minute from a BT landline. Other networks and mobile will vary. 18+ only. All calls recorded for your protection and safety. This entertainment service is regulated by PhonePayPlus, and provided by RGA, PO Box 322, WA14 8YL.

In stitches

by Malcolm Bird



More, more more! See more of Malcolm's great art work on his website www.malcolm-bird.co.uk

Contacts

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

If you are looking for someone selling a particular yarn, call the manufacturer. So, for example, if you are looking for a Stylecraft yarn, call Stylecraft, or if you are looking for a Rowan yarn, call Rowan. They can tell you your nearest stockist. Where possible we give an address and telephone number, but many small businesses are now internet-only, and so in those cases we only have a web address for those firms. In the case of common high street chains, we also list only the web addresses as you should have a branch locally.

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UK HAND KNITTING ASSOC.

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www.ukhandknitting.com

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Alan Dart

Star-Spangled Bantam is a website exclusive.

Knit one purl fun



We feature one of Alan Dart's brand new designs every month – but there are many more online!

Alan's gorgeous designs are very popular, so his website www.alandart.co.uk is a great resource for toy knitters as it's packed with lovely things to knit. It's also playing host to a special creation right now, Haitian Ada.

"A member of Ravelry wrote to ask if I would design a pattern people could use to fundraise for the victims of the earthquake," Alan explains. "I chose to make a *Hispaniolan solenodon*, an animal unique to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and give her a dress inspired by the Haitian flag."

While the pattern is free, Alan hopes that knitters who use it will make a donation or use the pattern to raise funds for charities help the people devastated by the earthquake.

Alan's online collection is growing as he adds two or three designs every month. "Most designs appeared in magazines or leaflets and are now out of print," he explains. "There are also a few designed exclusively for the website, and I'm hoping to create more in the future – it's just a matter of finding the time!"

The patterns shown on this page are available to download directly from Alan at www.alandart.co.uk (internet orders only.) Alan would like knitters using the Haitian Ada pattern to make a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee (www.dec.org.uk or 0370 60 60 900) or a similar charity.

Haitian Ada is free, but please make a charity donation if you knit her.



Many of the patterns on Alan's site, like the Labrador Retriever, are out of print.



If you're after Alan's older toy patterns, check his website first.

All characters are original – you cannot download patterns for licensed characters like the Beatrix Potter animals or Shaun the Sheep.

Hanukkah Hiram is another website exclusive.



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Cordless Steam Iron £19.97

Pieces knitted from some types of yarn need to be pressed before you sew them together – it ensures a neat, professional-looking garment with crisp seams. A decent iron is therefore an essential for every knitter. This iron is lightweight, easy to handle, and there's no trailing cord to get in the way while you manoeuvre your way around the ironing board pressing your pieces.



Rosemary Spa £29.97

Turn your living room into your own private 'knitting spa' with this fantastic aromatherapy music player. At the touch of a button it plays relaxing natural soundtracks to soothe and calm, and you can even select your favourite fragrance to waft around the room while you knit. If you think knitting's a great way to relax, try this!



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